



# OWL LIGHT News



OwlLightNews.com

Where Inspiration & Inquiry Converge

October 2020



# Wild Life

By AUDREY HARPE AND TEAGHAN ARONESENO

AUDREY HARPE  
Some Background

**W**e live in a small clearing in a densely wooded parcel of land in Canadice. We have two cats and sixteen chickens. Our chickens really have become pets that have the added benefit of producing eggs for us every day. We built a very secure coop and enclosed run for them but allow them out to free range most days. We enjoy living in the woods for the trees and the wildlife. We see lots of wild-life – a wide variety of birds, of course, and deer, rabbits, groundhogs, fox, raccoons, opossums, weasels, muskrats, frogs, turtles, a mink once (we have a pond) and even a bear once. My husband saw a coyote in the yard once—I missed it. Now we can add bobcat to that list!

We saw the bear one evening when we were having dinner. I saw from our dining room window a bear wander through the yard over to our vegetable garden. I jumped out of my seat to get my camera, but the bear heard the noise from the house and took off into the woods. We know there was a bear here another time when we were gone because I had made the unusual decision to fill our birdfeeders in the late Autumn with the sunflower seeds that I had just harvested from our garden. When we returned home from two-days-drive away we found our metal birdfeeders torn to shreds all over our yard. This is a clear reminder why it's a good idea to only fill the birdfeeders from January through March as I usually do.

We also see the occasional stray dog. (For a time there were two dogs that would saunter out of the woods together, take a swim in our pond and then

EDITOR'S NOTE: In Canadice, where our office is, there is an abundance of wildlife. When someone new and unexpected crosses our paths, we tend to share this with others—as one might share a sighting of a celebrity in an urban setting. There is always some sighting to make life more interesting, including this recent bobkitten encounter I heard about from a nearby neighbor, who knows we also raise chickens.

be on their merry way.) Once someone's very sweet dog happened into our yard and became interested in our free ranging chickens, but once again the chickens raised the alarm and we ran out before the dog could do anyone any harm. In fact, the poor pup looked totally bewildered and distressed. Upon seeing us, he ran around the yard a few times and then off into the woods.

Although there are many predators (we have a saying here "Everybody likes chicken") we do take the risk of letting our chickens free range. They are so happy foraging around in the yard and take care of many insect pests.

We love equally our domestic animals and wildlife. We feel very fortunate to live in this beautiful place where we are able to observe the natural world and its inhabitants on a daily basis.

Continued on Back

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• THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW IN THE OWL LIGHT  
This issue, check out "Etched in Stone," a NEW bi-monthly history piece by Finger Lake's author David Pierce.





## From the News Room

A new *Owl Light News* contributor has recently surfaced (pun intended). David Pierce will be Exploring New York's buried past in **every other issue** with *Owl Light's* newest feature: "Etched in Stone" (Page 15).

See page 18 for content for our younger readers.  
Puzzlers of all ages can find this month's puzzle on page 21!

### Correction:

Submissions for *Owl Light News* can be sent to Editor@Canadice Press. Feel free to contact us in advance with queries, if desired. Please specify the type of submission in the subject line of the email (i.e. news story, feature story, press release, poetry, editorial, opinion, fiction etc.). Include your name and phone number in the email, as well as a word doc attachment of the submission. All submissions will be considered on a case by case basis for publication in future issues (in print and/or online). Content is accepted on a rolling basis. The general deadline for all content for upcoming issues is the 10th of the month prior to publication. *Owl Light News* pages fill up FAST! We place online content ongoing and welcome community press releases.

Publication of *Owl Light Literary: Turning Points* has been delayed until 2021. Advance sales for the journal will be announced as soon as we have a firm

### ON THE COVER

**Above Fold: Keeping chickens means offering protections against others who enjoy them, including this bobcat kitten.**  
(Photo courtesy of Teaghan Aroneseno).



## The OWL LIGHT News

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## JOIN THE OWL LIGHT CONVERSATION

As our slogan states, *Owl Light News* is where "Inspiration and Inquiry Converge." As such, we welcome creative content and ideas along with active inquiry and commentary around the things that matter in the more rural places we live in—"where trees outnumber people."

Our contributors welcome comments, which may be sent directly to them or to editor@canadicepress.com

Letters to the editor and longer opinion pieces can be sent to editor@canadicepress.com. We ask that letters be topical, with sound arguments focused on ideas and information that inspires discussion and fosters positive community growth. Open exchange and change requires a willingness on the part of many to share divergent thoughts and listen carefully; to explore the validity as well as the weaknesses in dissenting views.

## View and Add Events ONLINE

View Events at [www.owllightnews.com/events](http://www.owllightnews.com/events).  
Add events at [www.owllightnews.com/events/community/add](http://www.owllightnews.com/events/community/add).

Calendar items (for community events) may be entered for free online at: [www.owllightnews.com/events/](http://www.owllightnews.com/events/). If you have a cancellation on a previously added event, please e-mail us at editor@canadicepress.com or message us on fb@CanadicePress. Once your venue/contact information has been added by you once, it will be available in a pull down for subsequent entries. **Posted events must be open to all individuals and must offer some direct community enrichment** (we review before posting goes live).

## From the Editor

### Lessons from the Pack



Amid the craziness of COVID-19 and the eerily close election 2020, the turning of the seasons offers a reminder that there are no constants. As I sit listening through the open window to the sounds of insects—revived by a day of warmth—I am watching our three dogs, Mars, Winnie, and Æsc (Ash), our newest rescue pup, settled peacefully on their beds, side-by-side in the corner of the sunroom.

There is an unsettling that comes with encroaching change that compels us all to seek equilibrium. Like many people, we have chosen this time of uncertainty and confinement to adopt some new family members: first our recent feline find, “Cat Stevens”—who became the topic for last month’s “Light Lens”—and now Æsc.

The moment of quiet bliss as they rest peacefully tells just part of the story of their, and our, careful negotiation of personalities and relationship-building. Overall, it has been a satisfactory transition, albeit not without some clear boundary setting to let all, especially Æsc, know where things stand. Winnie and the “wee one” have established a playful pattern of canine interactions. Mars—our senior dog who is slowing down—has, after an initial friendly welcome that rivaled Winnie’s (she initially wanted *nothing* but our love, and *nothing* to do with *that* thing) now stands ringside as they play, monitoring their bouts like a cantankerous referee.

“Cat Stevens” (housed happily in a separate building) remains free of the fray; some relationships are too challenging to negotiate.

A friend of my son, after seeing a posted video of Winnie and Æsc playing, responded, “Dogs do not deserve us.” This got me to thinking about the differences between human and canine patterns of rivalry and acceptance. With the recent sad loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg there is a renewed battle for dominance—a rising conflict that threatens to overshadow rather than celebrate her legacy. The escalating fervor, and growing sense of unease leaves me wondering if the differences might best be decided in a more straightforward manner—perhaps a gentlemanly-like duel, or maybe a more civilized settling of leadership—such as a friendly bout of chess.

So often, we get caught up in a taking of sides (an oversimplification, at best, of our unique principles, passions, and understandings; a denial of who we are as individuals) and in doing so fail to adapt the kind of give-and-take required to find common ground. Canine negotiations are tied instinctually to survival; not everyone who comes along will equally benefit the future wellbeing of the pack; not everyone is chosen, and the loser accepts this and *quietly walks away*.

As the election looms (election day simply *cannot* come soon enough) it seems prudent to reflect on what dogs do well. They are not deliberately mean. They are welcoming and responsive to the moods and needs of others, even those that might not have shown them the same. They are accepting of differences and welcome diversity. They recognize those who came before. They understand the concept of give-and-take. They will (despite differences of opinion and criticism) find ways of sharing communally, working things out for the betterment of all.

As we move through the exigent demands of co-puppy rearing, we are all welcoming the distraction our decision to add Æsc to our family has imposed. We had moved forward with intent, planning for the challenges and talking through (remember that?) how best to support the existing guard while integrating in the new. We had the pups meet first on neutral ground, well away from the home that the older pups “owned.” We took it slow, starting with just a quick, friendly sniff followed by increased, friendly, interaction. We allowed the adult dogs to state their claims while safeguarding the newcomer. We wanted more than meek acceptance of dominance; we wanted to forge *solid relationships beneficial to all*.

D.E. Bentley  
Editor, Owl Light News

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## From our Readers

Visit [Owllightnews.com](http://Owllightnews.com) for community notices and commentary from around the region.

### Letters and Opinion Pieces

Letters to the editor and longer opinion pieces can be sent to [editor@canadicepress.com](mailto:editor@canadicepress.com). We ask that letters be topical, with sound arguments focused on ideas and information that inspires discussion and fosters positive community growth. Open exchange and change requires a willingness on the part of many to share divergent thoughts and listen carefully; to explore the validity as well as the weaknesses in dissenting views.

### United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 19

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”



# SPEAKING OUT— A Conversation with Leslie Danks Burke

**Can you briefly describe your political strategy and what it takes to step up and win in November?**

**T**he powerful win when they divide us. My approach is overcoming those false divisions to bring together people to raise a voice for our long-neglected region. People on the left and right know that the system is rigged, and I know that our beautiful region can band together to get a real seat at the table and change things.

The divide in New York is between most of us, who pay high taxes but see our jobs disappearing and schools left behind, and those few folks at the tip-top who get subsidized by our taxes and don't pay their fair share. Power and money don't automatically flow to the top - it is stolen from the rest of us when Albany props up this cozy relationship between money and political power. It's robbed our region for years, and our current State Senator is part of this problem. He gets one taxpayer-funded paycheck for being elected and pulls in a second \$150,000 paycheck for his part-time side-job at a lobbying firm, while voting over and over to send money away from our region. The fact that New York State allows this double-dipping does not make it right, and we see that his votes do not help us, his constituents, but rather his corporate clients and own self-interest.

I'm running because the people of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes deserve better. I believe in us, we have real opportunity here, with hard-working people, beautiful country, and a spirit of giving that lets us take care of our own and maintain community anchors like our not-for-profits and schools. We know real solutions are out there for our struggling rural hospitals or broadband deserts, and we know that we can't keep electing the same good old boys who have represented our region for decades, and do nothing to change things. Thousands of us are ready to raise a real voice for our long neglected region and I know we can do it together.

**So often I see negative ads that focus on what the other person has not done (or that seek to cast the "others" in a negative light) rather than ads that focus on real issues, and solutions. I miss seeing "can do" messages that focus on what a candidate has to offer constituents, we the people, if elected. So, just to keep me happy, can you share with us your best "If I am elected..." message, telling our readers what you can, and will, do if elected in November.**

**T**his question is simple for me. Immediately upon taking office, I will introduce a bill to cut our property taxes by getting rid of New York's Medicaid-for-Profit scheme that no other state in the country uses. We need an #UpstateTaxCutNow, while getting one step closer to funding health care for everyone. Getting rid of New York's regressive tax structure will let our local businesses, startups, and family farms compete against corporate monopolies, and permit long-overdue investment in clean energy infrastructure, schools, universal pre-k, and universal broadband, all while spurring job growth.

**Despite being a more progressive nation now than we have ever been, women (and many other demographic groups) are still underrepresented in public office (and in positions of power in general). How important is it to have governmental representation that mirrors gender and racial demographics?**

**A**mericans are offended by oppression. We believe in a country founded on the principles that all people are created equal, and that government's moral authority comes from the consent of all the governed.

But when a government does not accurately reflect the people who live under its rule, we have to take a long, hard look at who's making the rules. When the rule-makers mirror the people in the country, they will better understand the needs, interests and challenges of the people they serve.

**We are living in a time of unity around identity and isms that has the potential to foster change but that has, in many cases, increased harmful divisions. This has been evident with recent Black Lives Matter protests locally and nationally (prompted by high-profile police-involved killings) and by the impacts and regional responses to COVID-19. How best might we balance the need for protests and free speech to work toward change while helping to unify communities around commonalities that can bring them together?**

**A**merica also has a proud tradition of speaking out and standing up for representation, which goes back to our very founding. Our rural 58th district, dotted by small cities like Bath, Corning, Elmira, Hornell and Ithaca, has seen peaceful protests calling to change a system where police kill Black people three-and-a-half times more often than they kill whites, where health care, income, and environment are so much worse for Black people that life expectancy is five years shorter than for whites, and where, if you are Black, you must follow a different set of rules than white people. I don't want to live in a community without law enforcement, and our communities must be able to trust our police officers and departments to protect their residents. Every time a police officer commits an act of unjustified violence, the trust is undermined. America's long overdue conversation about change will only happen if everyone's voice is at the table, including communities of color and law enforcement personnel.

Debate, dissent and protest are patriotic, but no one is allowed to hurt other people to make their political point or get what they want. The community conversation we see emerging in Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Yates counties is a direct result of these peaceful protests and we the people here can be proud that our communities are taking initiative for change.

**Many people and businesses have also been economically impacted by COVID-19. What needs to be done to save our small town "Main Streets" (so many businesses were struggling even before COVID-19's toll) and provide economic stability to families who have lost incomes and may be at risk of defaulting on mortgages or being evicted from rental properties?**

Continued on page 6



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**Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Ontario County**

## Medication Drop Box Locations

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<b>Clifton Springs</b> Hospital & Clinic (lobby)	<b>Hopewell</b> Mental Health Clinic (3019 County Complex Drive)	<b>Rushville</b> Village Hall
<b>East Bloomfield</b> Town Hall	<b>Naples</b> Village Hall	<b>Shortsville</b> Fire Department
		<b>Victor</b> Mead Square Pharmacy

**Questions?  
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# Pathways to Democracy

## VOTING: How Should We Safeguard and Improve our Elections?

By DOUG GARNAR



I taught Intro to American Govt. for many years at SUNY Broome Community College and I would challenge students to consider that the election of 1800 was the most important because the incumbent President, John Adams, was defeated by Thomas Jefferson and Adams accepted the election results and left the White House to retire from politics.

As the current election season comes to an end there is a real concern that the incumbent might not accept the results should he lose. He has already said that the election may be “rigged” and that “mail in ballots” will lead to such an outcome. Concerns have been raised about the US Postal System being able to handle requests for mail-in ballots and their return, as well as an effort to manipulate the system for partisan purposes.

### Consider the following:

- There have been five Presidential elections when the winner did not receive a simple majority of those voting (Andrew Jackson, Samuel Tilden, Grover Cleveland, Al Gore, and Hillary Clinton).
- Voting rules at the local/state/federal levels tend to be a patchwork quilt of laws. For example, in Indiana a photo ID is needed to vote in any election; whereas in Illinois there is no such requirement. Convicted felons may vote in Maine but not in Maryland.
- Outdated voting machines/those subjected to hacking, out of date voter registration lists/data bases as well as “purging” of voter registration lists plague a number of states.
- Voter participation at the national level sees 55% of eligible citizens vote whereas in countries like Belgium, Sweden and Denmark the figure is over 80%. Our Canadian neighbors vote over 62% of the time.
- More than 75% of American voters can vote by mail (excused/absentee ballots or simply by requesting a mail-in ballot).
- Tens of millions of eligible Americans are unregistered to vote.

As we move to Election 2020, many Americans are concerned about our elections at all levels being fair/efficient; that their votes will be accurately counted and the local voting systems will be safe from hacking and foreign

**“THE BALLOT IS STRONGER THAN THE BULLET.”**  
Abraham Lincoln

interference.

The National Issues Forums Institute has created a draft “Issue Advisory” designed to promote community deliberation. The issues raised in this column did not just emerge over the past few years and will continue well beyond November 3rd, the COVID Crisis notwithstanding. Three options for deliberation regarding voting include the following:

### OPTION 1: INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION

#### Things we might do:

- Give all voters the option to vote by mail, using bar-coded ballots and careful signature comparisons.
- Make Election Day a National Holiday.
- Expand early voting everywhere, allowing it to take place for a week or more.
- Allow automatic or same-day voter registration.

As with all NIFI deliberations, drawbacks and trade-offs for each action are given. A primary drawback is that most people who are informed on the issues of the day do vote. Should special efforts be made to push uninterested/uninformed people to vote? Will increasing the number of voters improve our democracy or lead to better government?

**“THE VOTE IS THE MOST POWERFUL NONVIOLENT TOOL WE HAVE.”**

John Lewis

### OPTION 2: PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF VOTING

Recent elections have seen efforts by foreign powers to interfere with voting: hacking of vote registration lists; technology mishaps, etc. If people’s confidence in voting security is a growing concern, the following actions might be taken:

- Require photo ID for all federal, state, and local elections.
- Limit absentee or mail-in ballots by requiring voters to provide a valid reason, such as travel or illness, for not voting in person.
- Replace digital voting machines with technologies that produce voter-verified paper ballots that cannot be hacked. Mandate that all election boards keep a paper trail of online voters.
- Establish a national cybersecurity agency charged with keeping campaign computer systems safe from hacking and sabotage.

Drawbacks and trade offs for each action are provided.

Might a primary drawback of this option be the potential of creating a more complicating voting system for citizens and local election boards, driving away voters from the polls, making elections less inclusive and representative?

### OPTION 3: CHANGE THE RULES TO MAKE ELECTIONS MORE FAIR

This option argues for broad reforms which make elections more efficient and more responsive to the will of the citizenry (elimination of the electoral college; ranked-choice voting—a system in which citizens rank candidates in order of preference rather than a winner take all system). The following actions could give citizens a stronger hand in shaping election outcomes, reduce extreme partisanship and help restore public confidence in the democratic process:

- Replace the electoral college with a direct popular vote process.
- Replace the patchwork of state/local election commissions with a centralized system.
- Create independent/nonpartisan commissions to redraw congressional districts.
- Replace winner-take-all elections with a more representative system in which voters can pick their first, second and third choices among the candidates.

A primary drawback of these reforms is that changing the traditional system, which has worked reasonably well, will confuse significant numbers of voters.



Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of “VOTING: How Should We Safeguard our Elections?” FOR FREE can email the National Issues Forums Institute at [nifi.org](http://nifi.org). Observations or questions about NIFI or about hosting a deliberation may be directed to Doug Garnar (NIFI ambassador) at [garnardc@sunybroome.edu](mailto:garnardc@sunybroome.edu)

Doug Garnar works with the Kettering Foundation and NIFI (National Issues Forums Institute) to help citizens find “pathways to democracy.” He has taught since 1971 at SUNY Broome Community College. He lives in Binghamton, NY. Doug Garnar at [gamdc@](mailto:gamdc@)



Speaking Out from page 4

Our local businesses and family farms have been overtaxed and under supported for years, and COVID exacerbated this. Immediately when New York State went “on pause” in March, I called for long-overdue relief (which did not happen in this year’s legislature, just as it did not happen for the 8 years my opponent was a member of the State Senate majority).

Here’s what we need to do:

- Establish an upstate-specific fund that mimics the NYC small business COVID relief program that (a) provides zero-interest loans for businesses with a smaller number of employees, and (b) grants to cover employee payroll.
- Pass legislation requiring insurance companies to make good on “business interruption” claims that local businesses are currently filing and that insurers are denying.
- Provide one full year of property tax forgiveness for any seasonal business which loses more than 25% of its annual revenue.
- Suspend mortgage or rent payments for 90 days for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Require that all state and local agencies use in-state facilities for conferences and off-site events.
- Send vouchers to NYS residents that may be used like cash at in-state tourism venues.
- Establish one-year sales tax holiday for all in-state non-chain restaurants and retail stores.



As a publication, we focus on life in the more rural regions of New York State. Most of our contributors and readers live where “trees outnumber humans.” Each of these smaller communities, these smaller places, offer something unique; collectively, they contribute so much to the economic and cultural wealth of New York State.



Photos courtesy of Leslie Danks Burke.

In your opinion, what is it that makes these smaller places important, and what steps will ensure our future growth and prosperity?

My husband and I fell in love with the Finger Lakes 15 years ago and moved here to start our family. But this is not the norm. Young people are leaving. For me, this is deeply personal. I stand up every day for my kids and all our children, because I want them to find a bright future for their families here.

From the shores of the Finger Lakes, to the rich history of Elmira, the educational power in Ithaca, the vibrant tourism centers of Watkins Glen and our wineries, and the industrial might of Corning and Hornell, this area is booming with beauty and economic potential. But that potential has gone unrealized. Elmira is one of only two cities in the entire country that never emerged from the 2008 recession, and now with the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging our economies, there is no end in sight. To get our region back on track we must get a seat at the table, and we haven’t had one for decades. For the last 40 years, this region has had the same people in power, the same people exerting their influence on our community in order to better serve themselves. I am running for State Senate to put people first, to get my community back on track, and I humbly ask for your vote.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

I met Leslie Dank Burke while delivering Owl Light News (and grabbing some lunch) in Watkins Glen, prior to COVID-19. We did not have an opportunity to talk much, and I had been meaning to follow up with the candidates. On September 4, 2020, I submitted questions to New York State Senate District 58 Incumbent \*Senator Thomas O’Mara and Leslie Danks Burke.  
\*We did not hear back from Senator O’Mara prior to print publication deadline.



Cartoon by Sally Gardner sallygardner.com



# The Light Lens

## A Nutty Ghost Story

By T. TOURIS

This was finally the year. This was the first season we had big, beautiful clusters of green hazelnuts hanging from the branches of the two trees we planted four or five years ago. It was going to be bountiful harvest. Little did we know, there were other eyes peering from the nearby spruce trees, and they had a very different plan.

Early July I set to finding a means to protect our nut crop. After copious research, I ordered a large roll of floating row cover. Row cover is a lightweight material that is often used over plants for protection against frost and pests. I figured this would be perfect for shielding the nuts from harm.

The day after ordering the material, nut carcasses began to appear at the bottom of our trees. Not good. I checked the delivery date for the cover: 7-10 days! We sweated out the week nervously watching as nuts were being dis-emboweled and unceremoniously left on the ground. Finally, the row cover arrived, and we quickly set to encasing

the trees in ghostly white shrouds. Many nuts had been lost, but enough remained to provide a nice harvest for winter-time snacking.

As the sun set behind the dying ash trees and the moon rose, the encased trees appeared like floating apparitions in the garden. We chuckled as the dogs barked at the strange sight but slept soundly that night in the knowledge that the nuts were safe from harm. The next day, we strolled the garden to bask in the glory of our ingenious triumph over the rapacious nut thieves. Then, there was a strange rustling within the covers. Suddenly, the white cloaked trees were alive! Frenzied wraiths seemed to be swirling behind the covers. We jumped back and watched in horror as several squirrels emerged from the folds of cloth that we thought we had bound so tightly to the base of the trees.

After recovering from our shock, we slowly untied the cords binding the covers. Scores of partially devoured nuts poured out. Forlorn and dejected, we



removed the covers from the trees as the squirrels squeaked and cackled from their spruce perches.

T. Touris is a wanna-be-retired- computer-programmer. He spends his free time designing and working in wood, while dreaming up the next Light Lens.

**VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE**



An Open Letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo  
September 10, 2020  
Dear Mr. Cuomo –

I am a small business owner in Central New York. My husband and I operate an 88 seat cafe/bar that features listening-room-style acoustic performances. We had just celebrated our one year anniversary when COVID-19 hit.

When we closed our doors on March 15, I understood we would likely be shuttered for at least a few months. I understood we would be among the very last businesses allowed to reopen. There was a certain relief in letting go and accepting it, in understanding it was completely beyond my control. I had faith we would receive some kind of aid to help get us through, and for while we did.

Gov. Cuomo, I watched your daily press conferences religiously. With the vacuum in national leadership, I was grateful to be living in NY, grateful we had someone taking charge of the situation. Your no-nonsense, fact-based daily briefings were oddly comforting, even when NY's numbers were high and the news you were sharing certainly wasn't good.

Spring turned into summer and New York began it's cautious, phased reopen.

We were busy reimagining our business so we'd be ready to go once CNY made it through the first few phases. We knew we would be facing an entirely new reality and there wasn't a single aspect of our business that didn't get retooled.

We are classified as a restaurant, so we planned to reopen when indoor dining resumed in Phase 4. I checked with Empire State Development at the end of June to clarify the rules on live music. While we are classified as a restaurant, music is definitely our main focus. I was told it was allowed as "small scale entertainment".

Well, it doesn't get much smaller scale than our place, especially since we were going to be operating at about 40% capacity – just 36 people. We waited another month just to be sure numbers didn't spike with everyone moving around again before we started planning a very limited schedule.

And then things got weird.

You declared food must be ordered by anyone who wanted an alcoholic beverage. The intention was to keep people seated, I get that, but keeping people seated was not an issue at our place to begin with. Our guests were anxious to comply with the rules, but not always hungry when they arrived. So, sometimes they placed to-go orders to eat later, which didn't really accomplish anything. It disrupted the natural rhythm of service, where guests used to relax and enjoy their first drink before ordering, and worst of all, it meant the entire room ordered their food at exactly the same time. It was a logistical nightmare for our tiny food prep area and I had to schedule another person to help at a time when we could least afford it.

But, we were settling into a groove and figuring it all out. We planned to

take advantage of the last 6 weeks of good weather and outdoor shows when you dropped the hammer.

On August 18 I learned about the new SLA rules prohibiting us from advertising or charging a fee for live music. I read it, then reread it, incredulous.

Prior to COVID, almost all our shows had a fee associated with them. It's the only way the business model works financially in a small room and it's important to us that everyone is paid fairly. With drastically reduced capacity, cover charges and tickets are more important than ever. We thought more venues charging for live music was one of the few bright spots in this whole mess...it's healthy for our music scene to put a financial value back into the experience. And obviously, tickets are the best way to control a crowd.

The ban on advertising music is astonishingly cruel. We are all doing our level best to make our limited capacity work and now you're telling us we cannot advertise to fill the few seats we do have? Are we are supposed to just open our doors and hope for the best?

We closed our doors again, wasting thousands of dollars we spent to reopen.

Governor Cuomo, we are DROWNING.

We are frantically treading water to keep our noses above the surface until (hopefully) some federal aid comes through. You looked at us, and instead of throwing us a life preserver you handed us a cinder block and told us to keep treading water.

The last 6 weeks of warm weather might have sustained our businesses for a bit longer, but the new guidelines have taken away even that flimsy lifeline.

In your August 9 press conference, the very last question was about bringing back live entertainment and Broadway. You said there were no plans to reopen "Broadway and other indoor, high-density arenas".

And this is the main point of my letter.

"Live Entertainment" is far more than Broadway and far more than "high-density arenas"...and literally nobody is suggesting we open those things right

now.

It is small rooms like mine that don't even come near the 50 person gathering limit.

It is wineries and breweries who have acres of wide-open space to spread out their guests.

It is the venues who cut their capacity down to almost nothing and are doing a hybrid of a small live performance + paid live stream.

It is the rooms that moved all their events to their parking lot or back yard.

It's different for everyone, but tickets and advertising are fundamentally necessary whether we are trying to fill 20 seats, 200 seats, or 2000.

And yes, live entertainment is also crowded rooms and mosh pits and huge amphitheaters packed full of people. We aren't asking for that. Nobody is asking for that. We are asking you to allow hundreds of small businesses across New York State to be allowed to reopen and run their venues with all reasonable precautions in place. We have spent thousands of dollars to adapt to do it as safely as possible because we understand and respect how serious COVID-19 is.

But you know what else is serious?

Losing a business we've invested our life savings into. Putting our staff out of work. Our city losing one of its few dedicated music venues. Musicians losing a place to ply their craft. Our community of music lovers losing their gathering place.

You have told us we have 99.2% compliance with bars and restaurants right now. Why are the 99.2% paying such a steep price for the non-compliant .8%?

We have waited patiently throughout this whole saga and watched every other industry open up without any corresponding spikes in cases. For the most part, we haven't even been part of the conversation. But time is running out. Many of us will be closing our doors for good in the next few weeks.

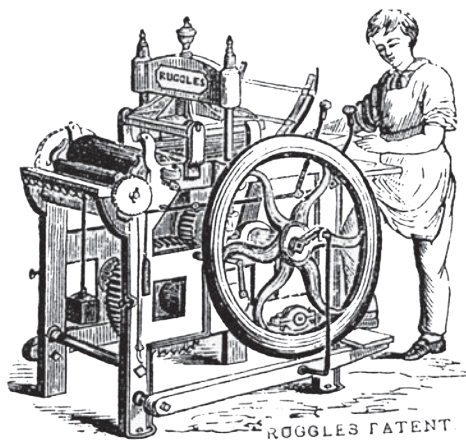
We are about to become collateral damage in the war on COVID19, and Governor Cuomo – I know this is not your intention.

I know you have a lot going on and "live music" probably sounds like a hobby people are supposed to give up once they get out of college. WE ARE MORE THAN THAT. We are musicians, venue owners, sound and light techs, production, security, hospitality. We are savvy, smart, creative, and ridiculously hardworking. We feed other businesses like hotels, restaurants, and shops, plus our everyday vendors – trash, payroll, insurance, linen service, food, and liquor. We are the first ones to donate and support fundraisers for our neighbors in need. We are a port in the storm where you can forget about all that's wrong in the world, if only for a few hours.

We are respectfully asking for the chance to try and salvage our businesses before it's too late.

Sincerely,  
Julie B. Leone,  
443 Social Club and Lounge,  
Syracuse, NY

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# The Night Sky

## The Summer Triangle

By **DEE SHARPLES**

**T**he Summer Triangle is an asterism you can see in the night sky in October. An asterism is a prominent pattern of stars resembling an object. In this case, three bright stars can be seen looking like a giant triangle or, using your imagination, a giant slice of pizza.

The brightest of the trio is Vega, a star in the constellation Lyra the Lyre. Vega will be the first star of the triangle that you'll spot as the sky darkens. Face south, and look high above the horizon and slightly southwest and you're sure to see it shining brightly at magnitude 0.03. Vega lies about 23 light years from the sun. (A light year is a unit of distance used in astronomy equivalent to the distance light travels in one year - almost 6 trillion miles!) If you were in a spaceship that could travel at the unimaginably fast speed of light, it would take you 23 years to reach Vega.

Almost straight up, you'll see Deneb, the second star that makes up the base of the triangle. Deneb represents the tail of the swan in the constellation Cygnus the Swan. Deneb is the dimmest at magnitude 1.25 and lies some 2,600 light years from our sun.

The third star Altair in the constellation Aquila the Eagle is below these two and represents the point of the triangle. Altair shines at magnitude 0.77 and is 16 light years away.

Jupiter is still a show piece in the evening sky. It shines brilliantly looking like a magnitude -2.4 star about 30 degrees above the southern horizon at sunset. Jupiter won't be in our evening sky much longer and by the end of the month, the planet will set in the west about 10:00 PM.

Mars, many times smaller than Jupiter will outshine the giant planet this month. Mars will rise in the east around 8:00 PM at magnitude -2.6 looking like a bright star with a reddish hue. Mars reaches its closest point to Earth on October 6 when it will be only 38.1 million miles away.

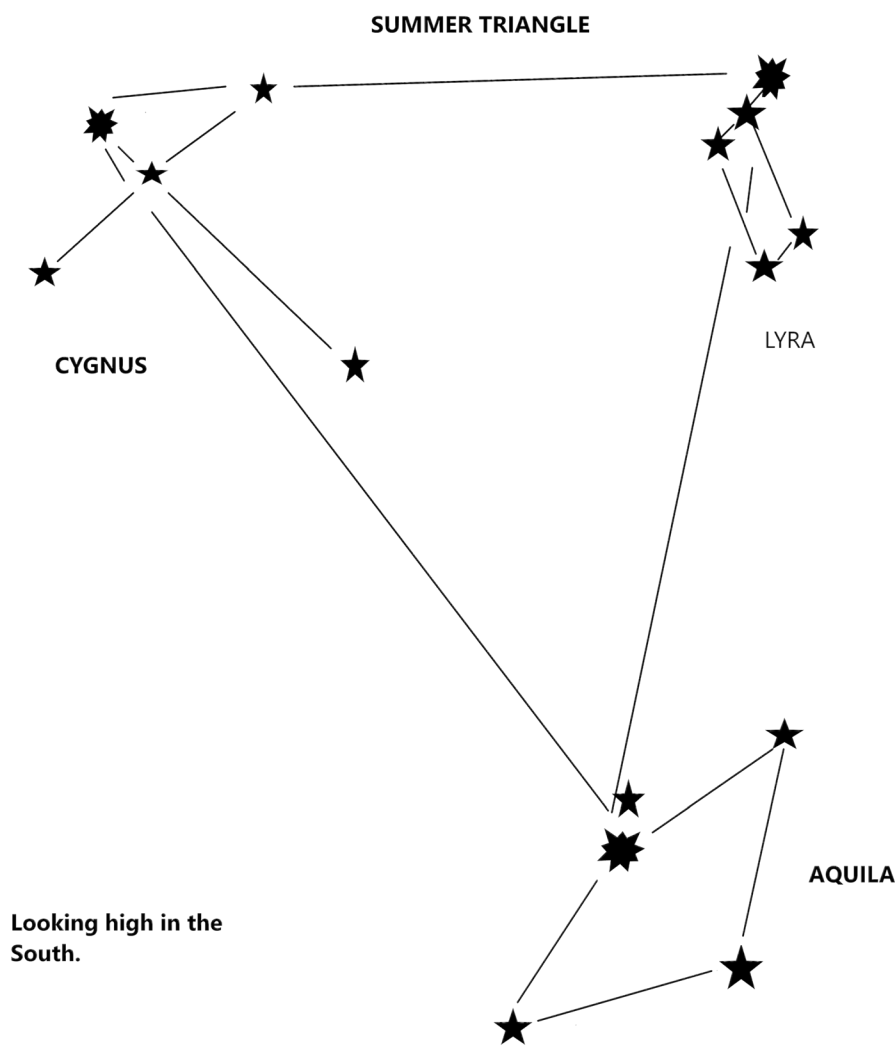
However, no other planet in our solar system can outshine Venus. If you're an early riser, so is Venus this month. After 4:00 AM look for it in the eastern sky, sparkling at a brilliant magnitude -4.1.

Neptune is the 8th and last planet in our solar system and the farthest from the sun at 2.8 billion miles. The planet is in our southeastern night sky right now, but it's the only planet not visible to the naked eye.

Its atmosphere is made up of hydrogen, helium and methane – the frozen methane in its clouds is what gives the planet a blue color. One of the two ice giant planets, Neptune is four times wider than Earth and has winds of 1,200 mph. A day on Neptune is short, only 16 hours long, but its year, the length of time it takes to travel once around our sun, is 165 Earth years. The only spacecraft to fly past the planet was Voyager 2 in 1989 on its way out of the solar system. It gave us our first close-up look at the planet and Triton, the largest of Neptune's 14 known moons.

What a thrill it was to realize I was looking at a planet, billions of miles away, from my own backyard!

Shortly after I began observing through my telescope, Neptune was going to be in the night sky near some bright stars. Using those bright stars as a road map, I "star-hopped" my way to two faint objects – one was the planet Neptune and the other just a faint star. I thought one of the faint dots might have had a bluish tinge, but to confirm which one was the planet, I made a sketch of the stars I could see in the 'field of view' through my eyepiece. Since the planets appear to move among the stars which are fixed in the sky as we see them from Earth, by checking the same 'field of view' a week later and comparing it to my sketch, I knew exactly which faint dot was Neptune. Now definitely looking bluish, Neptune had moved to a different location among those stars. What a thrill it was to realize I was looking at a planet, billions of miles away, from my own backyard!



**Magnitude:**  
Magnitude measures the apparent brightness of a celestial object and is expressed by a decimal. An object with a negative number like our Sun is brighter.

- Sun: -26.7
- Full Moon: -12.6
- Venus: -4.1
- Mars: -2.6
- Jupiter: -2.4
- Bright star: 0.0
- Vega: 0.03
- Altair: 0.77
- Deneb: 1.25

Dimmest star visible with the unaided eye: 6.0-6.5

**How to measure degrees in the sky**

A simple "ruler" is to hold your arm straight out and make a fist. The area of the sky covered by your fist measures about 10°. Start at the horizon and by moving your fist up and counting how many "fist-widths" it takes to reach an object in the sky, you'll have an approximation of its height. To measure 1°, hold your little finger out at arm's length. The area of the sky covered by your finger is about 1°.

Dee Sharples is an amateur astronomer who enjoys observing planets, star clusters and the Moon through her telescope. She is a member of ASRAS (Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science) and records "Dee's Sky This Month," describing what can be seen in the sky on the ASRAS website, [rochesterastronomy.org](http://rochesterastronomy.org).

**Strasburgh Planetarium**

Public observing on Saturday nights from the roof of Strasburgh Planetarium has been canceled until further notice. For updates go to: [rochesterastronomy.org](http://rochesterastronomy.org). Once viewing resumes, observation information is available at: [www.rochesterastronomy.org/the-strasburgh-scope/](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/the-strasburgh-scope/).



# The Homestead Gardener

## Bringing Trees Back into the Farm Ecosystem: A Talk with Steve Gabriel



By **DERRICK GENTRY**

“The oldest task in human history,” Aldo Leopold once wrote, “is to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.” One of the attractions of homesteading and gardening on a small scale is the idea that we can do even better: that we can improve the land *through* our use of it; that we might be able to give back to the land as much or more than we take; that it might be within our power to take land that has been spoiled by past abuse and, under the auspices of our wise and sympathetic stewardship, create the conditions for a Cinderella-like transformation. These are some of the premises/aspirations that define what is now known as “regenerative agriculture.”

Agroforestry, a thriving branch of regenerative agriculture, goes even further in its attempt to revise old assumptions and dissolve old distinctions. Agroforestry takes as its starting point the permaculture concept of the forest garden. In fact, the term “agroforestry” was coined in the 1970s, at around the same time Bill Mollison and Dave Holmgren invented the word “permaculture.” Both terms, however, are best thought of as new names for some very old practices that have been refined over centuries by cultures around the world—by the centuries-old *dehesa* system of woodland grazing in Spain, for example, and in the traditional (and demonstrably sustainable) forest management practices of indigenous peoples in our own region.

I was turned on to the ideas of agroforestry and woodland grazing and foraging (or “silvopasture”) by two magisterial books on the subject, both published by Chelsea Green: *Silvopasture: A Guide to Managing Grazing Animals, Forage Crops, and Trees in a Temperate Farm Ecosystem* (2018) by Steve Gabriel; and *Farming the Woods: An Integrated Permaculture Approach to Growing Food and Medicinals in Temperate Forests* (2014) by Steve Gabriel and Ken Mudge.

Perhaps the best general account of agroforestry is to be found in the opening paragraph of *Farming the Woods*, which is worth quoting in full:

In the eyes of many people, the practices of forestry and farming are at odds, because in the modern world it's often the case that agriculture involves open fields, straight rows, and machinery to grow crops, while forestry is primarily reserved for timber and firewood harvesting. Forest farming invites a remarkably different perspective: that a healthy forest can be maintained while growing a wide range of food, medicinal, and other nontimber products. While it may seem to be an obscure practice, the long view indicates that for much of its history, humanity has lived and sustained itself from tree-based systems. Only recently have people traded the forest for the field.

And here is Steve Gabriel, speaking as a small-scale farmer and landowner, offering a “mission statement” for the agroforestry business he co-founded with his wife in 2012:

Before we farmed almost every square inch of land in the Northeast, this used to be forested land. And the trees were old, and big, and healthy. Those forests had been around for thousands of years, and in just a few hundred years we cleared the forests and plowed and tilled and grew crops. We lost a lot of diversity. This eastern hardwood forest wants to come back, and we want to help facilitate that—*while* we grow forage and *while* we raise animals. Because we see the benefits of integrating trees and livestock and bringing trees basically back into the farm ecosystem.

When he is not writing books and giving talks and tending to his sheep, Gabriel works for the Cornell Small Farms Program and, with his wife Elizabeth, operates Wellspring Forest Farm (now also a school) in Mecklenburg, NY. Wellspring specializes in mushrooms, maple syrup, duck eggs, lamb, elderberry extract, and other forest products.

I recently had the pleasure of “zooming” with Gabriel at a stolen moment near the end of the growing season.

**What follows is an edited transcript of our talk:**

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**Let me begin with a personal question:  
How has this year been at Wellspring Farm?**

It has been a very dry summer, even though it was technically not a drought like the one in 2016. With the cool spring and the dry hot summer, it was also the worst maple syrup season. It nevertheless feels abundant. Overall, it has been a great year.

**Has the pandemic had an impact on your business?**

It has. The restaurants we had been supplying with mushrooms were not open, so we had to adapt quickly. Early this spring, we quadrupled our CSA customers. Within a couple of weeks, we had sold out and had to create a wait list. The great challenge this year has actually been meeting the demand. Many small farms are selling better, but it is a direct form of selling to the customer. That is a good development. I believe that even a small shift to supporting local agriculture may be enough to change things for the long term.

**What would you say are some of the benefits of agroforestry, as compared with open-field agriculture?**

The motto of agroforestry is “productive conservation,” and one of its biggest benefits is resilience—that is to say, forest systems are generally more stable than open field systems. Another benefit is that the practice of agroforestry gets people to value their forested land in a new way.

**Forest management, and maybe land management more generally, has long been seen as a matter of public policy -- something for bureaus and state and federal governments to handle. One thing I love about your books is that they make the complex questions about land management a matter for individual smallholders and stewardship on a small scale. So: what advice would you give to an individual with a few acres of wooded land who would like to go about "rehabilitating" that land and making it more biodiverse, resilient, and maybe more productive. What are some things to think about?**

One of the risks of agroforestry is not understanding the ecological stage that the land is currently at. So the first step is to take stock. Understand what is there already. People often come in with preconceived notions about what they want to do and make happen. But in some places, the land will support ginseng or maple production, while in other places the conditions are just not right. You need the right ecosystem. And sometimes you either have it, or you don't.

Thinning out a crowded forest canopy, removing some of the growth, can be a helpful way of supporting what is already there. The point is that we create the conditions for the forest to regenerate *itself*. And sometimes that means thinning.

I would also say that regenerating biodiversity has to be a multi-generational effort. The forest is not a vegetable garden: It can take decades, even centuries to bring about changes. We need to be humble with the time frame.

**There has been an interesting effort of late to rethink how we define "invasive species" such as black locust and Japanese knotweed. I recently heard Fred Provenza, from Utah State University, say that the best way to deal with invasive species is to "love them to death" with grazing and foraging animals (and I think my goats would agree with him, certainly when it comes to black locust!) How does agroforestry invite us to rethink invasive species in a new light?**

Continued on page 13



# Dragonfly Tales

## The Apple: As American as Apple Pie ... Well Perhaps Not

By STEVE MELCHER



**T**hough Henry David Thoreau insisted that he much preferred the wild apple (“of spirited flavor”) to the civilized versions found in Massachusetts orchards, even he admitted that the occasional spirited bite was “sour enough to set a squirrel’s teeth on edge and make a jay scream.”

**F**all! Here at Odonata Sanctuary, fall is the time to work on the BSF (Before the Snow Flies) list. Included on that list is apple gleaning. We do have several varieties of espaliered apple trees on the south facing side of the main house, but I’ve always found these to be too militant (“You there, up against the wall!) and far too much work. Like the berries of a few weeks earlier, I prefer to foray through the fields and forests to find the fruits of the forgotten wild apple tree.

On one such recent foray in a far part of the sanctuary, we found an aged gnarled tree only about 15 feet high but radiant with ripe red fruits ready to be relinquished to the apple cart. One of the monkeys in the crew climbed up and began her shaking and screeching and the apple rain began to fall. We all scrambled for the ripest of the ripe, saving the sorting for later, the four legged members of the family getting any that are not worthy of Forest’s strudel. While bantering and bobbing for apples, the topic of where apples came from came up. I was interested in how this particular apple tree might have prospered here. Was this robust tree once part of a larger orchard? Were the seeds pooped here by some meandering bear many years ago? But their question was not about this particular tree but concerned the origin of apples as a species. Where do apples originally come from? Most assume that the apples of American Pie, the apple of your eye and Johnny Appleseed are native to New York, at least the New World. Who knows where the food you take for granted originated? We know that potatoes that we associate with the Irish potato famine are native to Peru and that tomatoes of a wonderful Italian sauce are native to somewhere far from Rome. The Apple, it turns out, is native to what is now Kazakhstan! Originating in the Tien Shan mountains millions of years ago the apple has been a part of the human diet for thousands of years. But how did they get to the New World? Like many other treasures of the East, apples travelled to the Mediterranean and beyond via the Silk Road. Apples were introduced to our part of the world by colonists as early as the 17th century.

The first official apple orchard on the North American continent was planted by the Reverend William Blaxton in Boston in 1625, but even as early as 1607 Jamestown folks were eating apples grown from seeds and cuttings brought from Europe. But the apples of the early days in Europe and America were not grown for apple pies and strudels, their primary use was in the delightful fruity drink we know of as cider. Cider became a very popular drink in England after the Normans invaded and brought with them tasty apples from France. The New World brought that quest for quench with them in the form of cider apples. Most colonists grew their own apples and preferred to serve a fermented cider at meals instead of water, due to sanitation concerns. Even the kids had their share of watered down cider.

### What about that Johnny Appleseed guy?

**W**Yes, there really was a Johnny Appleseed. John Chapman, the apple toting fellow from Leominster, Mass, traveled the country with a bag of apple seeds and a tin pot nesting on his handsome head. He actually condemned grafting as wicked, insisting the only good apples come from seeds. John collected seeds mostly from cider mills in Pennsylvania and distributed them widely and wildly. These weren’t really good eating apples, they were used primarily again for cider. Johnny not only spread mouth puckering apples, he spread booze. Eventually the classic symbol of knowledge and health was ostracized by temperance activists of the times who pointed their finger at the apple as the source of alcoholic sin and proclaimed those that wished to be redeemed should burn their apple trees. Whew, and this tree that I am writing about survived all that. Imagine the stories these apples could tell. Perhaps the seeds of this tree were carried here by that sauntering bear or perhaps by some drunkard from New England visiting with a tin pot on his head.



JOHNNY APPLESEED.

Drawing of Jonathan Chapman, aka Johnny Appleseed, 1862 from *A History of the Pioneer and Modern Times of Ashland County*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. (1862) by H. S. Knapp.

### Botany Lesson: Apples grow extremely well from seeds but today’s cultivated apples are propagated using cuttings and grafts.

This is because apples are an excellent example of a fruit that is an ‘extreme heterozygote’ (hetero= different and zygote=fertilized cell). Their genetic makeup includes variations, or alleles, that combine randomly and cause significant differences from each apple’s parents. Even the same apple parents can produce very unlike offspring very much like another

heterozygous species, human beings. This means that rather than inheriting genes from their parents to create a new apple with parental characteristics, they are instead significantly different in taste and color from their parents. This may be a way to compete with pests and assure diversity in a changing environment.

### An Apple by any other name.

**A**The rose family includes apples, pears, quinces, medlars, loquats, almonds, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, sloes (blackthorns), and roses. The 50-acre orchard at USDA’s Plant Genetics Resources Unit in Geneva, New York, has what may be the world’s largest collection of apple trees—some 2500 different varieties from all over the world.

**History Lesson:** Thomas Jefferson was not only one of our founding fathers, but he was an avid foodie (pastas and ice cream!) and was responsible for bringing the Fuji apple to the United States. The story is that while Jefferson was visiting France he received a gift of an apple cutting from the French Minister, Edmund Charles Genet. Thomas later donated a cutting from his orchard to a Virginia nursery, which then cultivated a variety known as the ‘Ralls Genet’. In 1939, Japanese apple breeders combined the genes of Jefferson’s Ralls Genet with the classic Red Delicious and the Fuji apple was the scrumptious result.

### Health Lesson: An apple a day may really keep the doctor away.

Apples are low in calories and free of fat, sodium and cholesterol. They are rich in fiber, disease-fighting antioxidants and a variety of vitamins and minerals including potassium, folate, niacin and vitamins A, B, C, E and K. Eating apples has been associated with lower risk of a variety of cancers, stroke and diabetes. In addition, these nutritional powerhouses may help protect the brain from developing Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease, and even lower a person’s risk of tooth decay.

Another component of a healthy lifestyle is being thankful. The ancestors of that beautiful Red Delicious that you are biting into today may have come from far off Asia, but the one you’re enjoying today was picked and grown by someone, hopefully local, that you may never have the opportunity to meet. Make sure you thank a farmer and her farm workers if you ever get the chance.

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Steve Melcher is the primary caretaker, hoof trimmer & poop scooper at Odonata Sanctuary, Mendon. His studies included using members of the Order “Odonata,” as bioindicators of freshwater ecosystems. He has written/coauthored in journals, magazines, and books re: environmental literacy and ecological issues. Steve now works with environmental and educational organizations whose goal is to have “no child left inside”.

Learn more: fb Odonata Sanctuary.



# Bee Lines

## Double Nucs, Bearding, and Bee Yard Tranquility

By SAM HALL



### Setting up Double Nucs

Over the course of the summer, I had created several nucs: some in four frame and some in five frame nuc boxes. A nuc with bees is a mini-colony, and if you do not pay attention it can expand rapidly to the point where the bees will send the old queen and about half the nuc colony away, in the form of a swarm. These nucs are very useful in case you need a queen quickly to replace one in a full sized colony or, as I have done with some this summer, to take a frame of sealed brood from the nuc and use it to augment the population of a colony that you deem needs it.

Another use of nucs is to stock a double nuc box. A double nuc box is side-by-side four frame nucs, one entrance facing one direction and the other facing the opposite direction. Each side has a minimum of two such four frame boxes, one on top of the other. The object of a double nuc box is that the two colonies can share heat in the winter, thereby enhancing the chances of winter survival. My first years of using the double nuc box were disappointing; the colony on the southerly side survived and the colony on the northerly side did not. Because of this I stopped using it.

This year however, I'm trying again. I have moved the box to a more protected area and have orientated it more easterly and westerly. I am still concerned about the colony that is facing westerly, so to help I'm going to put three or four bales of straw a few feet from the entrance, so it will not bear directly the winter wind from the West. I'll let you know in the spring how it went. I put the two colonies of bees into the box recently and the colonies seem to have adapted well.

### Bearding and other bee yard challenges

The late summer hot weather has again caused intense bearding in spite of having removed the entrance reducers and propped open the inner covers. I have hives bearding that not only have I done the foregoing but have added empty medium supers on top, trying to increase the area of empty space and hopefully circulation. I have tried some with drawn comb and some with undrawn and it doesn't seem to make a difference. The old adage keeps popping into my head "bearding bees are not working bees." If anyone has any other suggestions, I would be happy to hear them.

Recently, I did one of the worst things a beekeeper can do. I increased the possibility of robbing for a vulnerable colony. There is a location in my yard where any colony I have ever had there seems to struggle, and I never seem to get the message. It



Top: (Left) The easterly facing side of the double nuc box; (Right) The westerly facing side. Bottom Right: The divider inside an empty box.

looks like a perfect spot at the top of a small rise that runs north and south, so I placed the colony facing east. I have another colony to the south about 75 to 100 feet away. The southerly colony has always done well and thrives, not so it's northerly neighbor. The only noticeable difference to me is that the northerly location has some poison ivy. This should not make any difference.

I have been pulling honey for extraction and my operation is small enough that I will pull individual frames of sealed honey and leave those that are not ready rather than wait until the whole super is full of sealed honey. It is easier on my back. I took two frames of honey out of this colony on August 12th. I replaced the frames with "wet" frames from the extractor. Wet frames are frames that have been extracted but there is still a bit of honey on them. Eight days later, on August 20th, the colony was being robbed out. By the time I saw it, it was too late to save the colony. I will cover robbing another time but in many of the cases such as mine it is generated by an unthinking act of the beekeeper. I believe the wet supers attracted bees from other colonies and they overcame the resident population. At some point during a robbing the resident bees become disheartened and stand down letting the robbers take over.



### Reflections on finding tranquility in the bee yard during troubling times

In this time of national stress due to many reasons, I find comfort in my bees as never before. As other venues have closed, three of my non-beekeeping friends have been coming to the yard to walk and observe. They also are finding a peacefulness and tranquility that they cannot find elsewhere. Hopefully it will continue for them and me.



Sam Hall is a Western NY beekeeper who first worked bees as a child growing up on a "dirt farm" in Allegany County, NY. He has kept bees for most of his adult life and believes that his mistakes "far outnumber his successes."

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## Homestead from page 10

A lot of the issue is with the term itself, which simply casts some species as “good” and others as “bad.” There is so much focus on *eradicating* these species, when transitioning is a more feasible approach.

At Wellspring, we don't want to eradicate these species, and one reason is that we rely on them as emergency fodder when we need it—during dry seasons like this one, for example, when we have been thinning out our woods and feeding our sheep with it. Many invasive species make great fodder. And non-native invasive species often have significant nutritional value for grazing and foraging animals.

It is important to *find* value in these plants. Someone recently asked me about removing a stretch of overgrown honeysuckle in order to build a windbreak. My response was that the honeysuckle was a windbreak, and why expend effort to remove it when it's serving that function already?

**In your recent book on silvopasture, you claim in passing that we need "more people on the land, not fewer." I wonder if you would elaborate on that.**

**A**nimals do require management, and the only real way to manage them is to graze them. Very few people today do this kind of work.

**Yes, it seems most people who work and tend to the land do not earn a full living from it. They do it more or less as a hobby on the side. You have a day job working for the Cornell Small Farms program. Do you have any thoughts on how we might incentivize more people to take up this kind of work?**

**S**ome of the current subsidizing of large-scale agriculture definitely needs to be allocated to support small-scale agriculture. Right now, though, 95% of all farmers have off-farm income that they rely on.



Steve Gabriel with some of the Wellspring sheep. Photo courtesy of Wellspring Farm.

The goal of the small-scale farmer should not necessarily be that the farm is the sole source of income. If you want to earn some of your living from farming, there is a triad of things to consider together: 1) your goals, what you are passionate about and good at; 2) the type of land you have and what it supports; 3) the markets for what you have to produce, whether they exist already or are markets that need to be built. In that case, you have to *develop* these markets. They are not given to you.

The farmers I work with are not always very good at record-keeping, etc.. They are good at farming and managing their land, but sometimes not so good at managing a business.

No one crop will make you a millionaire. Sometimes growing a crop to sell is not the best choice. My grandfather grew corn during the big shift to industrial agriculture in the middle of the last century, at the beginning of the “get big or get out” period. He decided to get out of farming and instead work as a mechanic fixing tractors. He still grew things for fun. But he had to adapt to the times.

In your Cornell profile, you write that your wife Elizabeth has taught you to see “another dimension” to your work in agroforestry “which includes the need to address social inequities and injustice that is prevalent in our society today.” The events of this year have brought many of these issues to the center of the public conversation. I wonder if you could say a few words about what you see as the connection between what you do and what you write about and these larger societal concerns.

**F**irst of all, owning land is itself a huge privilege. That coupled with the risks of going into business and getting a loan from the bank—these are challenges for anyone, but they are particular challenges for people of color.

At Wellspring, much of our profit goes back into the business. But we also try to reinvest as much as we can in building “community wealth” and supporting others so that they can do the same thing we have done.

Relationship building is important. We have worked to build relationships with local indigenous peoples, for example, by donating some of our profits, and by doing such things as learning their native languages. These people are *here*—they are not a history lesson, they have a presence and a future.

I come from a background in narrative writing, of telling stories, and I think it is really important to dig into history to see how we got here, to understand that story. Working toward social justice is much like regenerating a forest. It has to be an ongoing journey, and the problems may not be resolved in our lifetimes. But we have to take steps.



*Derrick Gentry lives in Honeoye with his wife and son, and numerous furred and feathered friends. He teaches in the Humanities Department at Finger Lakes Community College.  
E-mail: Derrick.Gentry@fllc.edu.*

# Late Summer Blooms as the Grape Harvest Looms

By SANDY WATERS

**W**ine and grapes are center stage in the beautiful and bountiful Finger Lakes Wine region, and thoughts turn to the start of grape harvest as summer gives way to fall. But wine lovers are sensory souls who appreciate all manner of pleasures and delights to the five senses. This region delivers in so many ways.

Consider a walk on the Finger Lakes Trail, the array of seasonal wildflowers and an encounter with a thought-provoking late summer wildflower....

It is late August and hot. Fall is in the air and the start of grape harvest is just around the corner. Recent rains have created the perfect environment for mushrooms of all shapes, colors and sizes to pop up throughout the wooded portions of the hike. A cluster of ghostly white Indian Pipes is a surprising and remarkable sight.

As the trail becomes sunnier, more colors enter the picture. The dangling orange flowers of Jewelweed are abundant in the moist soils. And then a stunning show of the richest red imaginable with a stand of gorgeous Cardinal Flower.

Full sun and drier soils showcase the dusty blues of Chicory, rich yellows of Goldenrod, purple-pinks of Joe-Pye weed and, a sure sign of fall, the pretty starry Asters in a variety of colors.



A mysterious and rarely seen addition to this lovely fall palette is the Closed Gentian. The color is a rich velvety blue bordering on purple. The flowers are arranged in a group at the top of the stem and they look like flower buds with closed petals. But that is all they will ever be, for these flowers never open. They resemble little blue bottles, hence the alternate name—Bottle Gentian. While other flowers advertise the availability of nectar with showy displays of their assets to attract partner pollinators, no such activity occurs for the Closed Gentian. Spend some time watching, however, and it becomes apparent that bees do manage to force their way into the flower so pollination does occur.

Continued on page 23



# Time for Some before winter clean up! Scrap Metal Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 521

October 3rd and 4th, 2020, 10 am - 2 pm

Dumpster at Ward's Lumber, Honeoye

Accepting *all* metal including old batteries, old appliances etc.



Call 585-229-2989 with questions



## ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, October 17, 2020  
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Casella Recycling Facility  
3555 Co. Rd. 49, Stanley, NY 14561

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Registration: September 21<sup>st</sup> - October 15<sup>th</sup>

To pre-register call: (585) 394-3977 x427

The event is limited to 500 residents who pre-register

### Materials Accepted at this Event - Residentially Generated:

Computers (including laptops, desktops, tablets and e-readers), Televisions, Microwaves, Small scale servers, Computer peripherals, Monitors, Electronic keyboards, Electronic mice or similar, pointing devices, Fax machines, document scanners, and printers (less than 100 lbs.), Small electronic equipment, VCRs, Digital video recorders, Portable digital music players, DVD players (including projectors with DVD player capabilities intended for home-use), Digital converter boxes, Cable or satellite receivers (including digital media receivers), Electronic or video game consoles.

FREE and open to Ontario County Residents ONLY



### Materials NOT Accepted at the Event:

Alkaline batteries, Smoke detectors/Carbon monoxide detectors, Devices containing liquid mercury (thermostats, switches, medical devices, thermometers), household appliances, liquids/oils, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, fluorescent lamps, and tape media (DVD's, VHS, CD's, cassette tapes, floppy disks, SD cards, etc.)

For information and other recycling events visit:

[OntarioCountyRecycles.org](http://OntarioCountyRecycles.org)



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Jack writes: Some years ago my Aunt Rosie in Saugerties, NY sent us a card featuring a large Edwardian family of mice sitting down to a Thanksgiving dinner. On it she wrote: "This is what our house looks like in the autumn." It reminded me of when we lived in the country on Pierce Creek Road, and field mice would come into the house when the weather turned cold. One year they chewed up a nice wicker basket and my wife's prized pair of lace-up leather boots. When we got Rosie's card I was working at a mind-numbingly boring job. I wrote "Wings" during breaks. I think of it as a 'rhyming scream'. By year's end I had finished my B.A. in Creative Writing, and I had the poem, so something good came of the bad job.

## Wings for the Mice

Jack Joseph Wilson

We get mouses in our houses  
In the autumn and the winter.  
We get mice in our hicc,  
And it isn't nearly nice.

It's a pestilential nuisance  
And a load of nasty nonsense,  
'Cause the crafty little creepers  
Are a bunch of day-shift sleepers --  
Midnight feeders  
Moonlight breeders.

So the munching in the halls  
And the squeaking in the walls  
Haunt our dreams  
till it seems

We can feel the mousey tickle  
Of their whiskers on our noses,  
See a phantom mousey flicker  
'Neath an eyelid as it closes --

We've got literally litters  
Of these lousy little critters.  
We should never have allowed it;  
Gotta do something about it!

Gonna get a cat who prowls,  
And a half-a-dozen owls,  
And the muffled pat of kitty paws,  
The ruffled swish of owls' wings  
Will bear  
us off  
to sleep.

Jack Joseph Wilson is a poet living in the Finger Lakes with his artist-philosopher wife Mac. He can be reached at [jackwilson@frontier.com](mailto:jackwilson@frontier.com).



# Etched in Stone – Exploring New York’s Buried Past

## The Search for Reverend Homer Blake



By DAVID PIERCE

### BACKGROUND

David Pierce and his wife Colleen moved to the Finger Lakes Region earlier this year from the Greater Rochester area to pursue a simpler and more fulfilling lifestyle. David has enjoyed exploring his family history for many years, documenting people, places and events as far back as 1590. He is a certified member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, having documented his ancestry back 10 generations to Francis Cooke and Peter Browne, two of the original passengers on the Mayflower voyage of 1620, 400 years ago. Many of his ancestors lived in and around Ontario County for well over 200 years, providing a convenient backdrop for his research.

### MOTIVATION

Inevitably, the day to day lives of our ancestors fade over time along with the cemeteries and gravestones that mark their final resting places. Older burial grounds become neglected, forgotten and many, for better or worse, fall into ruin; some disappear forever. Sharing New York’s buried past helps preserve the rich histories of brave men and women who have gone before us. Lives of great expectation, long lives and short lives, lives of joy and sorrow, lives of triumph and tragedy, lives of gain and loss...are all shared and preserved when descendants honor their ancestors through recognition, research and reverence.

### At the Cemetery

**O**n a hot and humid afternoon in mid-August 2020, my exploration brought me to Canadice Hollow Cemetery, located in the northwest corner of the Town of Canadice, N.Y. on Canadice Hollow Road. This was a lightly traveled remote road through beautiful, green and heavily forested landscapes. The cemetery sits on a knoll, elevated above the street level. If not for the well-maintained sign in front of the knoll, a traveler down the road would pass the site unaware of the rich history contained within its borders. A rutted and shady dirt roadway leads up the grade and travels around the deepest area of the cemetery. Time has not been kind to this Cemetery. The legible gravestones indicate that there has not been a burial there in over 80 years. Although the area is periodically mowed, encroaching vegetation, including poison ivy, is consuming the edges of the burial plots. Toppled, damaged and illegible gravestones are numerous. Nature is well on its way to reclaiming this reverent space, as the people and their lives fade into oblivion. The last restoration project I am aware of was in 2002, when a girl scout made some improvements as part of her Girl Scout gold award. Continuation of restoration efforts would be a wonderful contribution to the local history of Canadice.

### Reverend Homer Blake

One of the damaged and toppled stones sits on or near the burial site of my third-great-grandfather the Reverend Homer Blake. His life is the subject of my first exploration of New York’s buried past. Once a prominent, well engraved upright stone, his gravestone was lying face up, flat on the ground when I found it. The stone was nearly covered with dirt and creeping grass and was illegible. There was a jagged break at the bottom, as if the stone had been kicked over, struck by a piece of machinery, or hit by a fallen branch in a windstorm. Armed with my garden tools, I began the task of clearing away the overgrowth, unearthing the stone, and revealing the historical information engraved thereon.

Most people do not focus on the reality that we all have thirty-two unique individuals as third-great-grandparents. I personally find enjoyment in naming and discovering each one of mine.

Homer Blake was born April 13, 1788 in the town of Nassau, Rensselaer County NY, southeast of Albany, NY. In April of 1847, in his quest to be remembered, Homer recorded information on his life, family and aspirations in a handwritten document. A copy of this document was obtained from the Town of Canadice historical archives. This is a transcription of Homer Blake’s written words:

*Homer Blake*

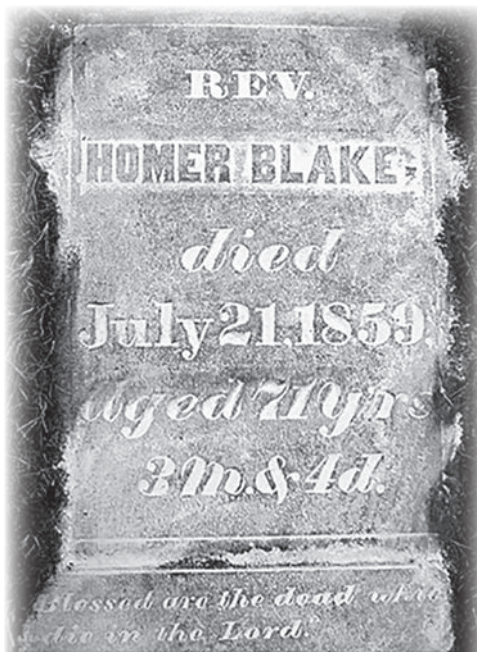
*Canadice April 1847*

*“Homer Blake was born April the 13th, 1788 in the Town of Nassau County of Rensselaer [sic] State of N.Y. The said Homer was the son of Frelove [sic]. Frelove [sic] Blake which was the son of Joseph Blake and the said Joseph died in the old French War when on his way from Montreall [sic] in Canada where he had been as a soldier in the Provincial Army and the brothers of Frelove were Seth and Joseph and Richard all of which were born in the State of Connecticut; and they were originally of Scotch decent [sic]; and the Mother of Homer Blake was Lois Spencer daughter of Samuel Spencer anciently of Norman decent [sic] and the said Lois was a native of East Haddam, Connecticut and a woman with excellent disposition. nb the said Frelove as was a soldier in the Revilutionary [sic] War and was in the great Battle of Stilwater [sic] County of Saritoga [sic], but inasmuch as my forefathers are all gone to the Eternal Worlds and I am hastening to follow them, I wish to leave these lines for my Dear Children to look at when I am gone and sinserely [sic] hope that we may all glorify God Our Savior.”*

*Homer Blake*

**B**y the early 1800’s, Homer Blake traveled from the Town of Nassau, NY to Onondaga County, NY. He was baptized as an adult at the United Church of Onondaga Hollow and Salina, NY June 5, 1808 and was recognized as a church member in 1810. He married his wife Abigail Coates about 1808. For reasons unknown, he was dismissed from the church on February 19, 1815.

The History of Canadice Chronicle provides information about Homer’s life path, back and forth between Manlius, Onondaga County and the lands south of Canadice Lake. In 1811, Homer sought out a place where he intended, in the Spring following, to erect a house and make it a permanent residence. He chopped a small patch and made the legal number of brush heaps, but, as Spring arrived, he became homesick and returned to Manlius. After Homer left, John Edgett, a young man from Richmond, came upon the cleared patch. He added to Homer’s brush heaps and built a single shanty. The shanty was sold to Harry Jones of Richmond for \$12.00 in 1813. Harry cleared near all the land and built a log



Gravestone of Homer Blake (1788-1859). Located in Canadice Hollow Cemetery, Canadice, NY.

cabin and a barn. Both Homer Blake and his brother Hector were recorded as insolvent debtors in 1820, one year after the NY legislature abolished debtors’ prison. Convenient timing perhaps, but certainly a testament to the difficulty of life for people of the early nineteenth century trying to build their lives. This hardship was quite possibly the catalyst that led Homer Blake to the ministry. When Homer returned from Manlius in 1838, he sought out the property described as “the object of his first love” and made it his permanent and final home.

Homer was a Protestant Methodist exhorter, the lowest level of credentialed ministers, for many years. The Methodist Church keeps track of its ordained ministers, but they have no records of the exhorters. Family recollections indicate that one place he preached was in the schoolhouse by the Park in Naples, N.Y. The building was a gift shop at one time and now appears to be a personal residence.

Continued on page 20



# The Monthly Read

## Crash and Burn

### A Review of *Nothing to See Here* a novel by Kevin Wilson

By MARY DRAKE

If you have children, or even if you know someone who does, you may have been the unfortunate witness of a child's temper tantrum. While watching a furious, out-of-control toddler thrash and scream, it's not hard to imagine him or her bursting into flames. This is exactly the premise of Kevin Wilson's new book *Nothing to See Here*, a novel that combines domestic fiction, humor, and magical realism.

Although it seems unusual when a male author chooses to write from the point of view of a female, Lillian, the protagonist of this story, is no ordinary woman. The resilient, if cynical, product of a poor, mostly indifferent, mother, Lillian was thought at some point to have had potential. That's how she ended up winning a scholarship to an exclusive prep school for rich girls and developing an unlikely friendship with her roommate. Madison is everything Lillian is not, beautiful and wealthy; however, they are both smart, both star basketball players, and both equally as weird. Neither wants to do what is expected of her. In Madison's case, that's "get amazing grades and go to Vanderbilt and then marry some university president and have beautiful babies." Not much is expected of Lillian, but still she is hopeful. But their dreams end up going awry and they both do the predictable: Madison marries a senator and has one perfect child; Lillian gets kicked out of prep school for drug possession, doesn't finish community college, works in two local grocery stores, and lives in her mother's attic.

That's when the children show up in the story. It seems that Madison has kept in touch with Lillian over the years, and she asks her to be a governess/nanny to her senator husband's two children by his first wife. Their mother has just died (inconveniently committing suicide) and the senator must assume custody of them. There's a catch, though. His twins, Bessie and Roland, suffer from an abnormal condition assumed to be inherited from their mother, a condition that could damage his ascending political career. They have inflame-itis; that is, when they become angry, upset or afraid, they spontaneously combust.

This can be awkward, especially if you're trying to project the image of a perfect family, as Senator Jasper Roberts is. Even though Bessie and Roland remain unharmed by their fiery condition, it can result in considerable harm to people and property in their vicinity.

Kevin Wilson's novel is not chick lit, but it does examine friendship between women. Lillian offhandedly recognizes Madison's inherent privilege but somehow, she never gets resentful. (The drugs which got Lillian kicked out of prep school were actually Madison's, but Lillian willingly took the blame.) "It was such a strange feeling," Lillian says, "to hate someone and yet love them at the same time." Later, when Madison is married to the senator, Lillian recognizes that money gets her friend most of what she wants. We're told that Jasper Roberts has "so much wealth that people just assumed they had to vote for him" and Madison herself says that, "He likes the fame, but he's not big on laws." Power, money, and a past history can be hard on a friendship.

But Lillian is a truly unique, if slightly unrealistic, person: one who is world weary, but quirky; intelligent, yet still childlike. That's why she can relate so well to Bessie and Roland. That's the other theme Wilson explores: what it takes to be a good parent. The twins have not been treated well by the adults responsible for their care. Lillian, too, has suffered from an unfortunate upbringing, which helps her bond with them and become their advocate, even though she herself is non-combustible. That doesn't mean Lillian never gets angry. When the senator eventually plans to send his fiery twins to "an alternative school, a kind of ranch, where trained professionals work with troubled children...in the Smoky Mountains...very private. Very discreet," Lillian furiously intervenes and whisks them away. She has never envisioned herself as a parent, but then parenting is best learned on the job.

At age 10, the twins are old enough to be reasoned with but still irrational enough to burst into flames. Wilson likely draws from the characters of his own two boys, ages 11 and 6, to help with

the portrayal of Bessie and Roland, but their combustible handicap may also be a metaphor for the disorder that Wilson himself suffers from, Tourette Syndrome, which is characterized by unpredictable, repetitive behavior. However, the twins can sometimes come off as seeming too old to have tantrums (Bessie bites Lillian at their first meeting. Do ten-year-olds still bite?) and too young for their compliance—they willingly do math during the summer when Lillian tries to remedy their erratic homeschooling. Aside from their combustion problem, though, they are perhaps what we would like children to be, independent yet trainable.

The best part of *Nothing to See Here* is the author's humor which he uses in his description of characters. We're told that Lillian knows her limitations but also her strengths. "I reminded myself to be smarter. I was smart. I just had a thick layer of stupid that had settled on top of me. But I was still wild when I needed to be." She's the type of friend everyone would like, someone who "as a kid...had a lot of experience getting alley cats to trust me." She is also an ideal parent who strives to do her best by those entrusted to her care. "Maybe that's what children [are]," she says, "a desperate need that opened you up even if you didn't want it."

An experienced writer, Kevin Wilson is a professor of English and award-winning novelist who has also written *Tunneling to the Center of the Earth* and *Baby, You're Gonna Be Mine*, both short story collections, and *Perfect Little World* and *The Family Fang*, both of which examine relationships within families. *The Family Fang* was made into a 2016 movie starring Nicole Kidman and Jason Bateman.

*Nothing to See Here* is nothing if not original, and it's an entertaining read that also speaks to more complex issues such as friendship and parenting, which we can all relate to.



Mary Drake is a novelist and freelance writer living in western New York. Visit her online at [marydrake.online](http://marydrake.online) to learn more about her books

Nothing to See Here  
254 pages  
HarperCollins Publishers Inc.  
(First Edition 2019)



Poetry  
Spotlight  
P. 17

# Sea of Coffee Open Mic

On October 1, the Sea of Coffee Open Mic. at Dalai Java, 157 S. Main St., Canandaigua, NY will host beginning at 7 pm an open mic. and featured readers ryki zuckerman and William Berry, Jr. Signup 6:30 to 7pm.



you go out  
—For Clarita

By RYKI ZUCKERMAN

i kid you not

i hug you not.

after all, i don't want to kill you  
with my exhalations,  
even though i am not  
one of those coughers.

even though i seem well enough,  
i keep my hugs in my arms  
ready for the future time.

"even though you are alone,  
you are not alone," read  
a magazine ad for a bank.

you know, those corporations  
are good at stealing  
the language of concern,  
even though they only  
want your money.  
they'd be happy for you to  
think they are your friend,  
albeit the friend who would be happy  
to rob you blind,

even though the blindness  
is theirs, the distorted intent  
to defraud you of your money,  
your hard earned dollars  
and cents, your starving  
skin and sense of well-being,  
your deficit of hugs.

"you're never alone" could be a good thing,  
unless it is the tagline for a horror movie  
and, then, you better be careful—  
the monster is invisible and always nearby  
waiting to hug you.

you think you see  
your friend

until reason reminds you

she is gone

then, as you walk aisles  
for groceries,  
every face  
is a loved one lost  
some gone 4 years, 7 years, 20

just for a nanosecond  
the passerby

has had their flesh hijacked

by the spirit of another

and then back  
to their own once more

a conveyor belt  
of morphing  
and unmorphing returnees

you walk faster  
the people around you  
check their faces on their smartphones

(From *the gone artists*, Nixes Mate Books, 2019)

Ryki Zuckerman is a co-editor of *Earth's Daughters*, one of the longest publishing feminist poetry journals in the US. She curates the Literary Cafe at CFI reading series (at the Center for Inquiry) in Amherst, NY. Her work has been published in print magazines and online journals, and she has a full-length volume, *Looking for Bora Bora* (2013), and seven chapbooks to her credit. Zuckerman, who has a Bachelors and Masters in Art Education from State University of Buffalo College, is a retired Art Professor. She has tried to retain a sense of what Rachel Carson called "child wonder" in her poetry.

By WILLIAM E. BERRY JR.

Untitled

My body is betraying me. Or, I have betrayed my body.

I know where I went wrong. Yet, I revel in the wrongness.

I need help and like a pouting child, I refuse to seek it; determined to cure what I cannot.

For decades, I have followed a never-ending regimen of self-pleasure; manipulating ideas and experiences into hollow fantasies that burst the very essence of life from me. And now,

I have become weary, disillusioned, and hopelessly trampled.

This cannot be what my life has become.

I worry that I am losing my mind catapulting fantasized desires into a stranglehold of despair and contempt.

I wonder if I genuinely love myself.

William E. Berry, Jr. hails from the Bronx but has been a resident of Auburn and a Dean of Institutional Initiatives at Cayuga County Community College for over a decade. In his career he has been employed in furthering empowerment, diversity, sustainability and culture at several major universities across New York State. He has a bachelor's degree from Lehman College in New York City and a masters from Boston University. In 2010, Berry launched aaduna, Inc., a nonprofit organization identifying and promoting new and emerging writers and artists, especially people of color. Berry, writes rhythmic poetry—recently presented, with music, at The William Seward Museum.

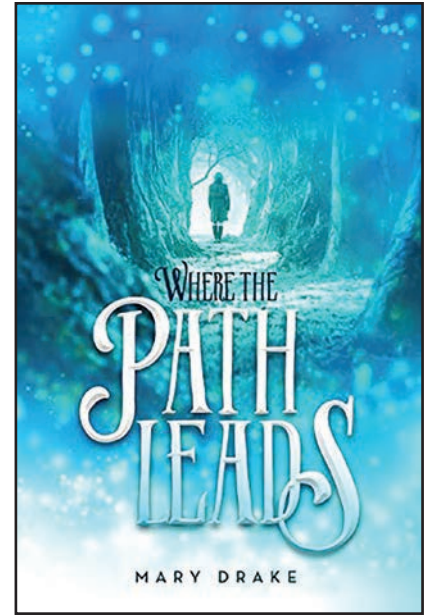


# Where the Path Leads - Chapter 7: The Visitor

In the last chapter, Emily learned something of her host Sophia's background, which helps explain the villagers' reactions to her. And, thanks to Sophia, she makes a new friend who introduces her to the wonders of this new place.

Emily sat in the doorway churning butter, sulky after a discouraging episode with the loom. The air was still. No cool breezes today.

Earlier, she had been trying to put hundreds of threads through tiny holes in the loom, a process called warping. Why did she have to do all this boring, tedious stuff first? She just wanted to get to the weaving. Then she'd gotten some of the threads crossed, had to take them out and go back to painstakingly rethread them. Finally, they'd gotten in such a tangle that she couldn't get them undone, and she'd thrown down the mess in disgust and stood up. "I can't do this! It's too hard. It didn't look so hard when you did it." She recognized them all as excuses, but her energy had waned along with her patience. Tired and hungry, she whined, "Isn't it time for lunch yet?" She seemed hungry all the time lately, which made her grouchy.



## Read Online:

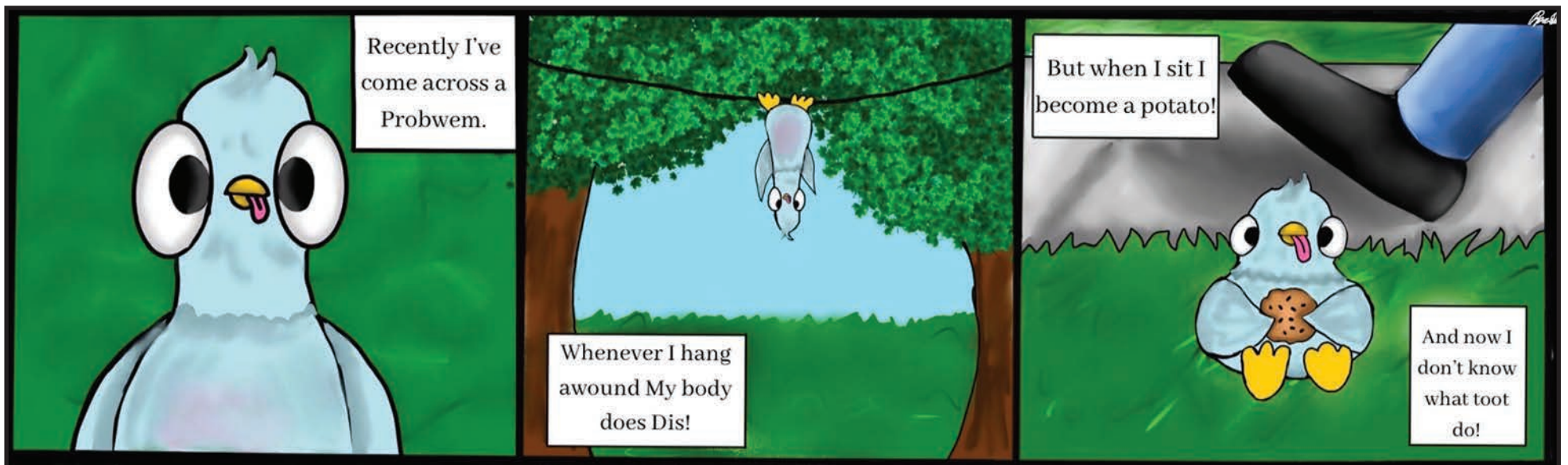
[www.owllightnews.com/where-the-path-leads-chapter-6/](http://www.owllightnews.com/where-the-path-leads-chapter-6/)

If you want to find out more about the book, go to [marydrake.online](http://marydrake.online), or you can purchase the ebook on Amazon.

Need to catch up? Go to:


[www.owllightnews.com/where-the-path-leads-chapter-\\_/](http://www.owllightnews.com/where-the-path-leads-chapter-_/)

Something for young—and young at heart—readers. Mary Drake, who offers us "The Monthly Read," (page 16) continues her young adult fantasy story, *Where the Path Leads*. A starter paragraph for new chapters will be found in print each month. Chapters will continue online. Although written with the young adult reader in mind, this story can be enjoyed by anyone who enjoys fantasy, and wants to come along on the journey to see where the path leads.



TUNE IN MONTHLY FOR PAKO DA PUDGY PIGEON!

By PIPER DAVIS



**PICTURE  
YOUR  
AD HERE!**

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*Culligan Water*



# Crafting Your Own Cuisine By EILEEN PERKINS

## Oaty Sweet Potato/Winter Squash Pancakes (Makes about 15)

I've been looking forward to sharing this recipe. Winter squash grows quite well in our region, and having another way of serving it can be most welcome! I think the little bit of extra time and attention that cooking these pancakes require is well spent. The sweet potato version is more prone to burning, so you might want to try winter squash first. These pancakes are good for breakfast, and can be an easy dinner side dish, if made ahead and stored in the freezer.

### Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups baked, peeled sweet potatoes/ yams or winter squash (if you boil rather than bake, the recipe might need less water. This may also be true, if you use frozen squash or canned pumpkin. Experiment and make notes.)
- 3 Tbsp. water
- 2 cups rolled oats, ground into a fine powder in a food processor, or use same quantity of oat flour
- ½ tsp xanthan gum
- ½ cup milk (any kind. I prefer oat )
- ¼ cup melted Earth Balance spread or butter
- 2 Tbsp. cider vinegar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 large eggs (approximately 7 oz. liquid wt)
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder \*
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 ½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- 2 Tbsp. honey (omit if using sweet potatoes or yams.)
- Oil for frying



### Steps

1. Sift together dry ingredients and set aside
2. Mix the water into sweet potatoes or squash thoroughly
3. Beat eggs in another bowl, until lemony, then add rest of wet ingredients, excluding the sweet potatoes or squash.
4. Slowly add dry ingredients to egg mixture, stirring until combined.
5. Next, completely stir in sweet potatoes or squash.
6. Allow mixture to settle 10 minutes
7. In a large, non-cast iron skillet, set on low heat, warm 1 Tbsp. oil for each set of pancakes until hot, but not smoking. Use 1/3 cup measure to portion each pancake. Allow each side to cook 3-5 minutes. Don't flip until bubbles begin to appear when cooking the first side. Cook slowly, so they do not burn, and are done throughout. Be patient. Hold pancakes in warm oven (200°) on cookie sheets until all are finished cooking then enjoy.



*Can be Gluten free, Dairy free, or Vegan if appropriate ingredient choice and safe handling procedures are adhered to.*

*These pancakes were all made using butternut squash. I especially like them served with butter and honey, applesauce, or maple syrup. For breakfast, they pair well with a savory item like bacon, sausage or home fries with lots of onion. For dinner, try with savory black beans, pork or chicken*



See cookbook review and author bio page 22

\*If a thinner pancake is desired, decrease or omit baking powder.



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# Making Lemonade

## Hippie Hair

By **BARB STAHL**

**A** good friend told me with my pandemic long white hair I looked like a hippie. I chose to take that as a compliment. Also, it was obviously a “sign” that I had better buy those Birkenstocks that were on sale right now, so I did! When I “Googled” the definition of “hippie,” I was somewhat shocked because this is what it said: “A person of unconventional appearance, typically having long hair, associated with a subculture involving a rejection of conventional values and the taking of hallucinogenic drugs...” I liked it very much right up to “a rejection of conventional values and the last part about “hallucinogenic drugs.” No, I won’t accept those parts! Another definition included “advocates a non-violent ethic.” Okay, I like that part.

Then I wanted to imagine what I missed by not going to Woodstock in 1969. Our three children were six, seven, and eight-years old at that time. Going was not an option for us. I can remember traveling behind cars on the New York State Thruway that had written in their back windows in bold letters such things as “WOODSTOCK, OR BUST.” That was as close as we got to that amazing event!

I began to fantasize about “what if” I had gone. Just thinking about sitting / lying on the ground for four days makes my back hurt now, so that doesn’t appeal. I am not real crazy about huge crowds. I would have loved hearing Joan Baez, Arlo Guthrie, Jefferson Airplane, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Blood Sweat and Tears, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, and many others. Fortunately, I did hear their records and cassettes many times after. Neither Chicago, Simon and Garfunkel, nor Bob Dylan performed at Woodstock, so I didn’t miss seeing them. There were several who declined the

invitation to play at Woodstock. I wonder what they thought after deciding not to go. Tommy James and the Shondells declined because it was described to them as follows: “there’s a pig farmer in upstate New York that wants you to play in his field.” Not too surprising they decided not to go!

I definitely would not have wanted any of the drugs there, but wine would have been a good choice and I probably would have had too much of that. The grounds became very muddy and messy. People couldn’t easily get to their cars, and if they did, they probably couldn’t drive them away. It was noted that everyone was cooperative, good natured, and there was a lack of violence.

I then decided to see what Wikipedia had to say about 1969. Here are a few things chosen from a lengthy list.

### 1969

**January 30th** - The Beatles gave their last public performance on the roof of Apple Records in London.

**February 8th** - The last weekly issue of the Saturday Evening Post was published in the U.S..

**March 3rd** - In a Los Angeles court Sirhan Sirhan admits that he killed Robert F. Kennedy.

**March 10th** - In Memphis, Tennessee, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to assassinating Martin Luther King, Jr.

**May 26th to June 2nd** - John Lennon and Yoko Ono on their second “bed-in” in Montreal, and he writes “Give Peace a Chance.”

**July 20th** - We woke up our three children and while in their pajamas at 10:56 pm, they saw Apollo 11’s Lunar Landing. They still remember Neil Armstrong being the first to step on the moon.

“Okay, now I’m shocked to think all of those people just mentioned are younger than my three children.”  
Yikes.....



**September 2nd** - The first automatic teller machine is installed at Rockville Centre, New York.

**September 26th** - The Beatles release their *Abbey Road* album.

**October 5th** - *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* first airs on BBC One.

**October 29th** - The first message is sent over AIRPANET, the forerunner of the Internet.

**November 10th** - *Sesame Street* airs its first episode on NET.

People born in 1969 include Renee Zellweger, Jennifer Lopez, Tyler Perry, Jennifer Aniston, Matthew McConaughey, Ice Cube, and Cate Blanchett.

Okay, now I’m shocked to think all of those people just mentioned are younger than my three children. Yikes.....and now I recall last week my oldest daughter telling me that she was going to the grocery store on Tuesday because it was “senior citizen” day, so she could get a discount.

If you are wondering what prompted this unusual “Making Lemonade” I have no logical reason or defense. Just blame it on my age, long white hair, and thinking about being a hippie.

Wishing you PEACE, LOVE, and HOPE!  
(with sincere thanks to [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) for the information fill-ins).

Barb Stahl is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, retired school library media specialist, and a western New York/Finger Lakes area lover who did a previous column for Canandaigua Daily Messenger. She loves her family, circle of friends, reading, writing, history, music, theater, and Tarzan the cat who critiques her articles.

Contact: [makinglemonadeOwl@gmail.com](mailto:makinglemonadeOwl@gmail.com)

## Etched in Stone from page 15

Homer’s nephew, Alexander Freelove Blake writes of Homer: “He was a preacher by profession and a man who took an earnest interest in the well-being and betterment of his fellow beings. Homer Blake when first known to his nephew, writer of this statement, was a man of family, a minister of the Gospel and then residing in the Township of Cicero, Onondaga County, NY which must have been as early as 1825 or 30; that the last personal knowledge of him was in the Spring of 1841, after Uncle Homer had moved west to Canadice Township, Ontario County, N.Y.”

### Conclusion

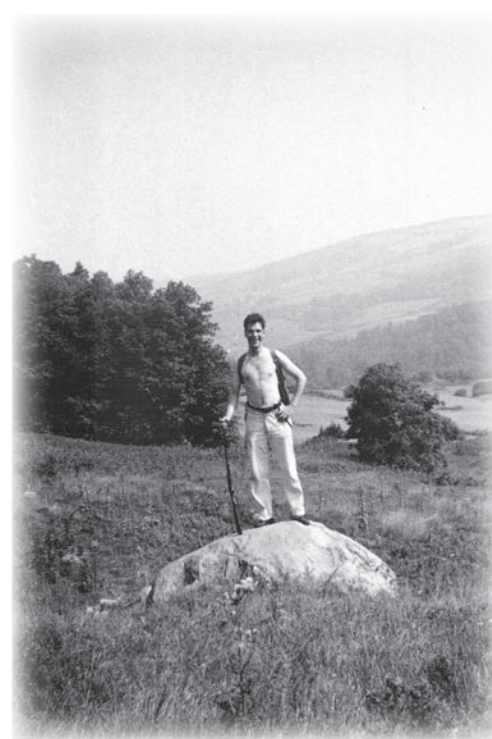
The life of Homer Blake is but a glimpse of one life during the early years of Canadice Township. Canadice has a rich history of hardworking, risk taking pioneers who created productive lives as they built their community despite the challenges and difficulties they encountered. Rev. Homer Blake’s gravestone reads:

*Rev. Homer Blake died July 21, 1859 aged 71 yrs 3 m. & 4 d.  
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.*

The verse references the New Testament Book of Revelation, Chapter 14. Fitting that a bible quote would be engraved on a Reverend’s gravestone.

As time wears away the Canadice Hollow Cemetery, the life of Rev. Homer Blake will be remembered, now etched in print, and digitally preserved as a small piece of New York’s buried past.

## In Search of a Rock



**T**his is a photo of my Dad, Stuart Pierce, taken some time in the 1930’s very likely somewhere in Naples, NY. I would like to locate this large rock to pose for a picture...kind of a then and now photo. **I would like to offer a \$100 "prize" donation to Hospice House in the name of the first person who can lead me to the rock and take my photo!** He came to Naples to live with his grandparents Warren and Esther Pierce during the Great Depression when his father lost his job. The original Pierce Farm was on Gulick Road near the corner of Clement Road. The house, now green, is still there. It was in the family for three generations.

They had a cow pasture, so the photo might have been taken around there. He is leaning on a gun, which leads me to believe that it was near the farm. He never spoke about firearms, particularly after his WWII service, except to say that he was not comfortable using one.



# Owl Light Puzzle 6<sup>©</sup> By GEORGE URICH

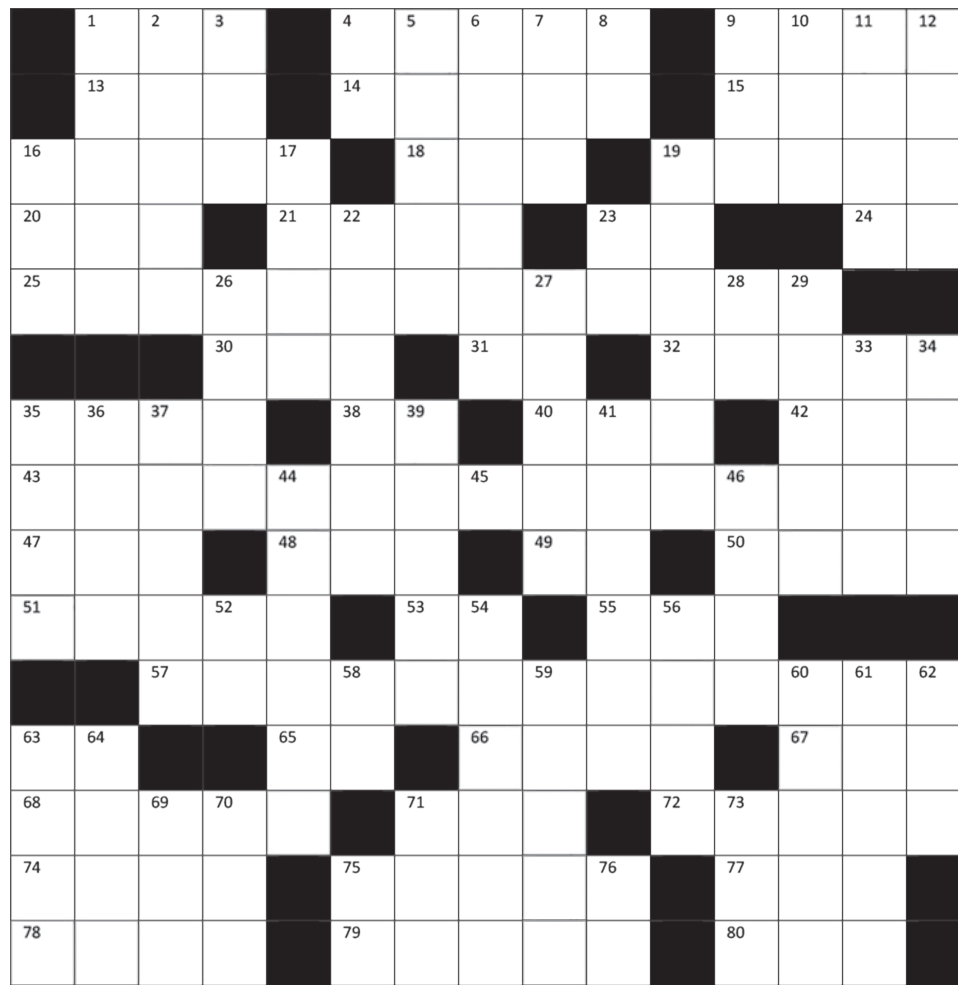
## ACROSS

- 1 One of a NYC fleet
- 4 Fashion designer Hilfinger
- 9 Italian auto brand
- 13 Chantings at the beginning and ending of yoga sessions
- 14 In the crowd of
- 15 Against the law. \_\_\_gal
- 16 The staff of life
- 18 Year in Spanish
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_ in the newspaper that....
- 20 \_\_\_ Hur
- 21 Federal agency concerned with workplace safety. Abbr.
- 23 Metric unit of volume, Abbr.
- 24 Old age benefits, Abbr.
- 25 Two General Motors brands
- 30 A chronic autoimmune disease, Abbr.
- 31 Word of choice
- 32 A note acknowledging a debt and a disease, two abbrs.
- 35 Scottish steep bank or hillside
- 38 Initials of the author of "Farewell to Arms"
- 40 Capable of producing voltage when exposed to  
radiation, photovolt\_\_\_
- 42 Letter following Cee
- 43 60 miles per hour
- 47 Three of the four main compass directions, Abbr.
- 48 Agency established By Truman to control peacetime atomic science, abbr
- 49 Spanish yes
- 50 Same as 21-across
- 51 Varieties
- 53 Santa speak
- 55 A farm process to make crops stay more insect resistant, Abbr.
- 57 Two Japanese auto brands
- 63 Morning
- 65 Automatic money machine, \_\_\_M

- 66 Former President of Yugoslavia
- 67 Common airport contraction
- 68 Russian tourist City
- 71 You place one at the race track
- 72 Juliet's love
- 74 Lone
- 75 Skater Lipinski and others
- 77 The largest education union in the U.S. Abbr.
- 78 Korean autos
- 79 City in Iraq
- 80 WW2 Intelligence organization, Abbr.

## DOWN

- 1 American jazz pianist Chick
- 2 Update
- 3 Youth development org.
- 4 Prof's assistant
- 5 Midwestern Capitol
- 6 Principality on the French Riviera
- 7. Letter sequence L\_\_\_
- 8 initials of Russian Cosmonaut who was first in space
- 9 Evergreen tree
- 10 A spot of land in the sea
- 11 \_\_\_ poor Yorick
- 12 Kennedy and Koppel
- 16 British broadcast media, Abbr.
- 17 Barbie
- 19 Emphatic Spanish response to "where are you"
- 22 Part of a shirt
- 23 Symbol for copper
- 26 Aha
- 27 Donkey speak
- 28 Denver St.
- 29 African antelopes
- 33 Ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 34 A tavern request in Boston
- 35 German automobiles, Abbr.
- 36 A name given to liberal Republican politicians by detractors
- 37 Watchful



- 39 Large chain of department stores in the Mid-Atlantic States, defunct in 2006
- 41 Maybe I will
- 44 \_\_\_ pie
- 45 letter following Q
- 46 Midday
- 52 Destination
- 54 Old Western movies
- 56 Tie up a boat
- 58 What just stopped for post office employees, Abbr.
- 59 Indian musical instrument
- 60 Lord's ladies
- 61 Geometrical calculations
- 62 Sign of a Hit, Abbr.
- 63 Uncontrollable behavior
- 64 A type of skirt
- 69 In the way of
- 70 A group of things working together, Abbr.
- 71 Sheep speak
- 73 Japanese singer Yoko
- 75 Common name for a lung disease
- 76 Continent on the Western hemisphere



George Urich is a retired Xerox engineer living in Canandaigua, NY. He solves and creates crossword puzzles to keep his brain active. A new puzzle will be shared each month, for the puzzling enjoyment of Owl Light readers.

## Dedication at Little Lakes Community Center

If you've driven through Hemlock recently you probably noticed the new sign on the brick school building there, formerly the Jack Evans Community Center. The Little Lakes Community Association, now owners of the building, will be dedicating their new sign and sculpture on the front of their Center, as well as their History Room on Wednesday, October 14 at 3:00 p.m. The sign was donated to the association by Donna Jopson in memory of her late husband, Dick Jopson, beloved local country musician and active volunteer for LLCA. The sculpture was created and donated by Richard Shearer, a local artist whose studio is in the building. The History Room was created by Rick Osieki, with photographs and artifacts of historical significance to the area.

The public is invited to join with the volunteers and invited guests, including town and county officials, for the dedication ceremony, followed by light refreshments and tours of the building.

Dick Jopson performed with his band, the Northernaires, starting in the 1950's. Dick played well over 3000 shows in his lifetime. Included in those shows was 13 years straight at the Fiddlers Picnic, Long Point Park on Conesus Lake, longer than any other act. He received the following awards for his contributions to country music:

WCJW Radio – 2008 - Enduring Popularity Award; NYS Country Music Hall of Honor – 2012; NYS Country Music Hall of Fame Award – 2013; and the NYS Lifetime Achievement Award – 2016, at the Cortland, NY Hall of Fame Park. His bashful smile, wonderful voice (many people think he sounded like Johnny Cash), good looks, sparkling blue eyes, and his great sense of humor all contributed to his large following, drawing big crowds, and getting many out on the dance floor.

Dick served in law enforcement in Livingston County, in the Geneseo village police force, and later with the Sheriff's department.

LLCA took possession of the building several years ago and has offered numerous classes, workshops, concerts, and festivals at their Center. A dedicated group of volunteers have staffed these events and have worked diligently to restore and renew the building. Numerous businesses currently rent former classrooms. Rooms and the "gymnasium" are also available for short term rental for parties, meetings, etc. For information visit [www.littlelakesny.org](http://www.littlelakesny.org) or call (585) 367-1046.

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# The Conscious Crow

## Those Who Have Gone Before

**H**ave we temporarily lost our way as the decades cascade? As new generations bloom and old pass on do we forget all the reasons we are able to stand here today in this way, in this age? Have we forgotten this life we are given is an opportunity and a gift?

Our elders lived and loved so that we could be alive and thrive, paving a way so we could simply exist. The very air we breathe is an honorable offering and it is our mission to be here today and accept this gift. It is our innate responsibility to sustain what they once began so many moons ago; the seeds they persistently and patiently planted, watering with dreams, with hope, and love for a world they would never see- though nonetheless worked tirelessly towards. These ancient invisible footsteps of our ancestors forge the path we now walk. Every sacrifice unfolded a new possibility for the world we see in present-day- precisely because of what our ancestors have done. Who we are and what we are today is a legacy granted from our elders. Passing down through space and time from yesterday, this legacy meets us today so that we may exert and exercise our precious existence in evolution. Our life is a milestone, and there is no mistake in our being who we are or where we are today. Long before we were born of this earth, we were called. It is because of them that we stand, and we can.

Our genetic chemical makeup links an energetic responsibility and duty to our lives, calling us to keep working a viable way to be the best we can be for the ones who have gone before. To keep forging ahead stepping brightly into the light of our truth, remembering this unseen dream woven once upon a time by our lineage. Their dream is now our reality; the dream drawn to life that was once deeply planted inside the hearts and minds of our family. We are the lives born on wings of wishes silently spoken into the ether. We are fruits of labor, of love, walking and rising each day to the sounds of our ances-

Our elders lived and loved so that we could be alive and thrive, paving a way so we could simply exist.



tor's song. Every tear, every trial, testament and choice, established this journey that wildly unfolds within our being and bones. These footsteps of our descendants ripple into all worlds through all of space and time, floating and sprouting to greet us where we are now. These footsteps are reaching out for us to wake up and remember the sacrifices from all the ones who have come before. Remember the perils, pain, joy and unwavering belief.

May we not disrespect what they bled and bred for: what they gave their lives to in honor of our own. May we not dissolve their revolutionary work of peace and justice in the line of violence and hatred by separating ourselves from one another insistently. May we instead remember the hope and the love our elders once carried in their souls; the strength they shower in our very image- as a reminder to carry on this quest- so we can create a future for those generations yet to come in the same manner of love, belief, and patience. May we heed this call, and awaken for the ones we may never greet, but whose lives perpetuate through our choices. May what we say and do in this day, this moment, and this life reflect the grandiosity granted by those lives who have passed. May we honor the heart of what is gifted, so that we may give back in honorary return, initiating a tradition worth following with a song one day worth singing, setting a mighty example to those who will one day be born. May our lifetimes work be an admirable source of inspiration for future generations; that they may one day honor these footsteps we walk today far after we are gone, and continue to forge the path, remembering to sing this song and carry on.

The Conscious Crow—Reminding you to Grow

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## *Food Security for the Faint of Heart—Keeping Your Larder Full in Lean Times*

by Robin Wheeler

**I**f empty shelves greeted you, when you sought canning jars and lids for preserving your garden bounty this year, you had lots of company. I read one report that recounted a seller saying that some folks were buying what canning jars they could find, just so they'd have lids for jars they already owned. And the shortage was widespread. Online sources were unsympathetic, it seemed to me; prices for such things, if they were available, had increased beyond reason. I confess, I robbed my new 12 oz. jars of their lids so I could put my jam in the 8 oz. jars I had in storage, thinking I'd replace those lids before needing them. Silly me... As I write this in September, I do have to wonder if I'll be making the grape jam I've been dreaming of or just raisins this Fall.

My discovery of Robin Wheeler's book was quite timely, in more ways than simply those made clear by the recent lockdown. Our neck of the woods just experienced a short period without electric service, calling to mind the vulnerability of folks who lack means (like generators or a nearby friend with a nearly empty refrigerator/freezer) for easily weathering such upsets. Opening the book at random, (to a chapter called "The Real Thing-EARTHQUAKE!"), I found a side bar relating to electricity interruptions. Called "Beef Jerky", it begins, "...slice any beef that's defrost-

ing in your freezer into thin pieces..." The full directions take up a single paragraph, and contain, understandably, talk of lots of salt-still, the words convey what might amount to empowerment in a time of crisis. The whole book seems to reach for that goal, crisis or not, guiding the reader through a process of uncovering new skills, sometimes acquired on the fly. The author also is very much grounded in community and environmental concerns, which in good times and bad, makes a lot of sense. For those new to thinking in this way, she offers gentle encouragement to expand.

*Food Security for the Faint of Heart* feels to me as if she's sharing what was gained, via a long process of experiential refinement, both in terms of skill building, and the acquisition of wisdom. I especially enjoyed Chapter 2, "Stockpiling" (my husband doesn't think I need any encouragement with this...). My kindred spirit asks, "How did such a great concept, become such a dirty word? Most of us will have to learn to get through a truckers strike, an ice storm, or a long term lay off, and having a stash put away does no harm". The author shares some great suggestions from a friend, who with her small children made their home in an isolated part of British Columbia. "Our family was allowed one 'grub run' a year", she revealed. Imagine that! How does one plan for such a thing? How does one plan

for such a thing, one trip to the store a year?! The ideas guiding Wheeler's planning process might be helpful for anyone stockpiling even just a little.

Equally edifying is Chapter Six, entitled, "Storing the Garden Abundance". It features diverse headings: "Leave it where it lay", "Simple storage", "Dehydrating", "Canning and pressure canning", "Packing in sugar", "Packing in vinegar", "Packing in salt", "Brining", "Packing in oil" and "Freezing". I haven't investigated it all yet but plan to. Although I found this book in my local public library's collection, I am investing in a used copy of my own, not only for the information so relevant in the life I choose to live, but also for the warmth and humor that communicates it. If only for the pleasure of practical, down-to-earth entertainment, this book is worth checking out.

---

Eileen Perkins is a native of Rochester N.Y., who cooked professionally, in a wide range of venues, for many years, before moving to the Finger Lakes. She and her husband owned and operated "Eileen's Bakery an' Soup Kitchen", a business that emphasized vegetarian cuisine and the craft of artisan baking. Recipe adaptation for people with special dietary needs is a passion she enjoys sharing. Among Eileen's current priorities is preservation of food from the garden, developing more comprehensive communication skills, her Falun Gong practice, and educating compassionate people about human rights in Communist-ruled China, and elsewhere.

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Solution to Owl Light Puzzle 6, (found on page 21).

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
	C	A	B		T	O	M	M	Y		F	I	A	T
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25			26					27			28	29		
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43			44		45			46						
M	I	L	E	E	V	E	R	Y	M	I	N	U	T	E
47			48		49			50						
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68		69	70		71		72	73						
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78			79		80									
K	I	A	S		B	A	S	R	A		O	S	S	

## Gentian from page 13

And even though the bees may have to expend more energy to gain access, the nectar of the Closed Gentian is said to be one of the richest of all flowers in terms of both quantity and sweetness.

Diluting rain and dew are shut out, and given the lateness of the season, the precious insides are protected from the colder night temperatures as well.

The Closed Gentian is beautiful, mysterious and rare... attributes that make the encounter a special one. The closed character of this flower seems contrary to the general nature of flowers and their need to attract pollinators for reproduction and the continuation of the species. This is not a "Gentian-thing" for the Closed Gentian has a showy sister called the Fringed Gentian, also beautiful and rare, with pretty petals on full open display.

Nature works in mysterious ways and the Closed Gentian is a thought-provoking example of this.

### Gentian has Beverage Industry Connections:

There is more to Gentian than meets the eye however. In addition to being a beautiful and mysterious flower it also has a few interesting connections in the beverage industry.

Gentian is an ingredient in Angostura Bitters, used to flavor cocktails.



And then there is Moxie. Gentian root extract is a key ingredient in a historic regional soft drink named Moxie. Moxie is one of America's first mass marketed carbonated soft drinks. It was patented in 1885 by Moxie Nerve Food (the year before Coca Cola was launched in 1886) and was marketed then in ways compared to today's energy drinks. It is still in existence today and is, in fact, the official soda of the state of Maine.

The soda is both sweet and bitter, and has a Dr. Pepper-like flavor. There is no middle ground with this quirky drink—you either love it or hate it.

In August 2018 beverage giant Coca Cola purchased Moxie. Coca Cola is now the exclusive producer and distributor of Moxie going forward, with no planned changes to formula.

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TEAGHAN ARONESENO  
Bobkitten Encounter

One afternoon our chickens were out free ranging and they began making alarming noises. I went out to check on them and saw something with a tail moving into the chickens' run. I knew there were a few chickens in the coop in the nesting boxes, so I ran into the pen yelling so as to scare away whatever critter was there. It was a bobcat, and by its size seemed to be a kitten. It was about the size of our male domestic cat just

heftier and with much bigger paws! I succeeded in scaring the bobkitten and it ran into a corner of the run. So, I shut the door of the coop to protect the nesting chickens and then shut the door of the run (which is completely enclosed) to keep the bobcat in while we decided what to do.

In the meantime, I got out my phone camera. After I had a chance to really get a good look and take these photos, we decided to try shooing the bobkitten out of the run and scare it away. I went back into the run with a broom and left the door open. I slowly moved around the run so that the bobkitten would move toward the door. When it exited, I followed, making a lot of commotion, and the bobkitten ran off into the woods. 

At first the bobcat was very scared and was desperately trying to find a way out.



With the way blocked, the bobkitten tried hiding in a corner, then hung onto the wall before climbing up the 2x4 studs and walking out onto a shelter roof.



Finally the bobkitten calmed down and explored around the run. Then strolled across the chickens' roosting ladder and, with coaxing, headed out the open door.



Photos courtesy of Teaghan Aroneseno.

**SIDE NOTE from AUDREY HARPE**

We fence in our vegetable garden from the deer, rabbits, groundhogs, and our chickens! We also put chicken wire around some of our flower gardens, if they are ones the chickens will destroy. We try to protect what we love and value while respecting the lives of all the critters that live here.

**DEC RESOURCES for LIVING with WILDLIFE**

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation offers an abundance of resources for living with wildlife, along with periodic press releases. Habitat and species information on NYS mammals, including bobcats and black bears, is available online at [dec.ny.gov/animals/263.html](http://dec.ny.gov/animals/263.html).

  
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